JPRS 82125

29 October 1982

Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2650

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CONTENTS

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Briefs
Syrian-Palestinian Cooperation 1

ALGERIA

Problems, Decisions of 1982-1983 Academic Year Reviewed
(EL MOUDJAHID, 6, 7 Sep 82..... 2

Schools Financial Status Reviewed
Schools Limitations Reviewed

EGYPT

Value, Motives of U.S. Aid Pondered
(Ihsan 'Abd al-Qaddus; UKTUBAR, 5 Sep 82)..... 9

Bar Association Bill, Forthcoming Elections Discussed
(Sana' Qabil; ROSE AL-YUSUF, 23 Aug 82)..... 12

Armed Forces Contributions To Production Underlined
(Ahmad Fu'ad; AL-AHRAM, 7 Sep 82)..... 16

Central Agency Seen Necessary for Management of Port Projects
(Ahmad Salah al-Din Badr; AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI,
7 Sep 82)..... 21

Briefs
Professors for Regional Universities 26

LEBANON

Official on Requirements for Reconstruction
(Muhammad 'Atallah Interview; AL-HAWADITH, 27 Aug 82).... 27

Use of Israeli Ports
('Adnan Karima; AL-HAWADITH, 27 Aug 82)..... 30

Briefs
Gas Prices 32
Rebuilding Costs 32
Prices of Smuggled Goods 32
Capital Punishment Considered 33

LIBYA

Electricity Statistics Examined
(AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR, 9 Aug 82)..... 34

OMAN

New 56 Meter Patrol Boat Delivered
(TIMES OF OMAN, 9 Sep 82)..... 43

Overseas Scholarships Offered
(TIMES OF OMAN, 2 Sep 82)..... 44

New Law on Commerce
(Muzzafar Mohammad; TIMES OF OMAN, 23 Sep 82)..... 45

Small Farmers Get Loans
(TIMES OF OMAN, 21 Sep 82)..... 46

SAUDI ARABIA

Inability of Local Universities To Absorb High School Graduates
('Abdallah Idris; 'UKAZ, 30 Jul 82)..... 47

SYRIA

Improvements to Services Noted
(AL-THAWRAH, 27 Aug 82)..... 67

Briefs
Transit Trade Losses Cited 69
Importance of Phosphates 70

BRIEFS

SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN COOPERATION--Syrian-Palestinian talks are under way in Damascus to renew the search for strategic cooperation agreement between the two parties. Well-known Palestinian leaders representing the various resistance groups are taking part in the talks. The talks concerned with working out the text of the agreement were halted when the Israelis invaded Lebanon because the Syrian and Palestinian leaders became involved after they had made substantial progress in preparing the text. Among those who participated in the first stage of the talks were 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and some leading members of the Ba'th Party for the Syrians and Salah Khalaf, Abu Mahir, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuhi, Abu Jihad, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, and Muhammad Khalifa for the Palestinians. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 290, 11 Sep 82 p 14] 5214

CSO: 4404/689

PROBLEMS, DECISIONS OF 1982-1983 ACADEMIC YEAR REVIEWED

Schools Financial Status Reviewed

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 6 Sep 82 p 12

[Text] Algiers, APS--The Council of Ministers met yesterday at the seat of the government, presided over by Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FIN Party.

The Council heard a report by the prime minister on government activities.

The Council of Ministers examined and approved documents regarding the 1982-83 school and university academic year.

--In regard to basic education:

The Council of Ministers recorded a school population with about 530,000 new students.

There are about 300,000 first-year students, or an 8 percent increase over the year 1981-82.

Infrastructures: 4,000 new classes; 128 new CEM's [College of Intermediate Studies], or twice the number of CEM's in 1981-82.

Textbooks: 21 million textbooks, or an increase of 7 million over the year 1981-82.

--In regard to secondary and technical education:

In general education, the number of students increased from 232,648 for the year 1981-82 to 257,000 for this year, or an increase of approximately 10.28 percent.

In technical education, the number of students increased significantly, as it grew from 16,348 in 1981-82 to 27,000 for this year.

As far as infrastructures are concerned, the number of institutions increased from 122 to 283 for this year, with more than 1 million textbooks provided.

Teachers: the number of teachers has risen from 12,536 in 1981-82 to 13,725 for this year.

Faculties: establishment of 50 integrated divisions for technical education in schools of general education throughout the nation.

--In regard to professional training:

The Council of Ministers recorded the number of 161,000 trainee and apprentice students, representing an increase of over 63 percent in comparison to the 1981 school year. It is to be noted that of the 161, students, 8,830 are headed for training as engineers and advanced technicians.

--At the level of higher education:

The Council of Minister recorded 29,900 baccalaureat students, 1,960 of whom had been admitted to the technical baccalaureat program. This year the university is receiving 96 percent of the new baccalaureat students, an increase of about 200 percent over the year 1981-82.

The science faculties represent 61.41 percent; and arts and letters and social sciences, 38.59 percent.

The figures show more than 100,000 students, with more than 90,000 graduating.

As part of the decentralization process, several faculties have been opened. Similarly, there are new faculties: the Institute of Islamic Sciences in Algiers, and two institutes of physical education in Algiers and Setif. Particular efforts have been made to resolve the problem of educational, scholastic and administrative facilities.

--At the level of the National School of Administration:

With the establishment of two new branches in Oran and Constantine, the number of first-year students doubled from 200 to 400.

Two new faculties have been opened, the communal administration division and the health administration division.

In drawing conclusions from these important decisions, the president of the Republic noted particular interest with regard to matters of training and education, and especially stressed the urgent and twofold need to:

--Better control all the facilities for training and education within the context of national planning.

--Do everything possible to assure young people training positions in order to guarantee their integration within the country's economic life.

The Council of Ministers heard a memorandum from the minister of planning and national development on the matter of inter-enterprise debts which have been outstanding for many years.

In order to clarify the financial situations of the enterprises, the Council of Ministers agreed upon the following measures:

I) Introduction of legal provisions to implement measures authorizing:

--The banks and the Treasury to pay any recognized debt not in default, no matter what the situation of the public debtor's funds;

--Official payment of all the administration's accrued debts as of 31 December 1981;

--Granting temporary loans to enterprises holding debts older than 5 years, and the transfer of these debts to the department of the Ministry of Finance responsible for payment of old debts.

--Official debiting of the administration's debts by Ministry of Finance departments when they are recognized and not in default and after a period of 3 months from their normal due date.

II) Establishment of a system to follow up settlement of the enterprises' debts:

--Through trusteeship, with the participation of the financial sector, for debts only involving enterprises within the same sector;

--Through ad hoc bilateral commissions, with the participation of the financial sector, for intersectorial debts;

--Through wilaya commissions for debts only involving enterprises within a single wilaya.

III) An injunction to the enterprises, the administrations and the banks to speed up invoicing, requests for payment and payment of debts, and in order to do this, to reveiw their operating procedures and to strengthen their sales, financial and accounting departments.

IV) Extending the practice of commercial paper to relations between public enterprises.

V) An obligation to systematically resort to inter-enterprise contracts.

Concurrently with the implementation of these measures and in order to develop inter-enterprise relations within a legal framework which is better adapted to the public nature of the enterprises and to the conditions in which they operate, the Council of Ministers has decided:

--To establish a work group responsible for preparing an exhaustive list of inter-enterprise debts by length of time outstanding, by type, by reason for dispute, freezing or delay, and to evaluate possibilities for payment of these debts through compensation, official payment and any other means.

--To bring together a group of experts responsible for:

--Studying the most appropriate legal framework to regulate enterprise-administration, enterprise-bank and interenterprise relations.

--To propose practical and effective procedures for arbitration in debt disputes.

--To define a national system for recovering public enterprise debts.

Schools Limitations Reviewed

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 7 Sep 82 p 12

[Text] Algiers, APS--The Council of Ministers, which met last Sunday under the chairmanship of Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FIN Party, examined and approved documents regarding the 1982-83 school and university academic year.

We know that preparation for the 1982-83 academic year, undertaken beginning in the 1981-82 academic year, has passed through several stages according to a method of operation established in conformity with orientations and principles defined by the laws of the country and by resolutions and decisions of the party and government.

The Algerian University is receiving 27,041 new baccalaureat students this year as compared to 13,833 for 1981-82, or 96 percent of those who passed the secondary school baccalaureat (mathematics, sciences, economics, engineering-mathematics, literature) plus technical baccalaureat holders. Of the 29,900 students who were granted the baccalaureat, 26,824 are thus enrolled in graduate studies, and 217 in training to be advanced technicians. If we use the figure of 8,300 diploma holders graduating, without taking into consideration those who are enrolled for post graduate programs, the institutions of higher education will receive 18,741 additional students this year, or an increase of about 200 percent.

Various Limitations

Therefore, from the point of view of the number of new students and the significant results which have served to identify and solve the problems of improving the operation of university establishments, to implement forms of coordination with the other ministries (Habitat, Commerce, Transportation, Public Health, Youth and Sports...) and the regional authorities (wilayas), it will be noted that if the 1982-83 academic year promises to be somewhat difficult, it is confronted only with the inevitable growth problems of the Algerian University which is today celebrating its 20th academic year. While the University of Algiers had 2,725 students in its frist academic year after independence, today the total number of students, including the new enrolees and students in graduate, postgraduate and undergraduate programs (tutorials and college preparatory courses) amounts to 100,000, or a rate of

growth of close to 26 percent over the 1981-1982 year. It must also be pointed out that a large percentage of emigrant students are enrolled in the first year of college. This figure, which is clearly on the increase every year, responds to the government efforts directed at our community abroad.

This massive university population certainly poses some problems and encounters various limitations. The limitations are found in the teaching, the infrastructure, social matters and the administration. These limitations were foreseeable, as the national conferences of vice chancellors, directors of institutions and COUS [expansion unknown] directors in June 1981 and September 1982, and the regional conferences in the east, the central region, and the west which are being held this month, have already sought both national and local solutions in studying the problems on the field in order to strengthen decisions for the academic year 1982-83 and provide provide a preliminary approach to problems for 1983-84. As far as educational capacity (premises), the consequence of the large influx of students is the need for resources and infrastructure.

In order to confront this large influx, close to 7,000 new student places were created in the 12 operating university centers during the past year, thanks to the cooperation of the Ministry of Habitat and Urban Planning which mobilized its efforts to complete some buildings, particularly the doubling of class space at Houari Boumediene University and completion of other buildings by bringing in more human and material resources in order to complete them as quickly as possible. At the same time, and in consideration of the new student population, other ministries (Energy, Heavy Industry) made other buildings such as the Algerian Petroleum Institute in Setif, the National Mechanical Engineering Institute in Tiaret, a training center in Ain-Smara (Constantine) and one in Ksar El-Boukhari available to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

It must also be stressed that the walis have contributed to the success of this academic year by making buildings which could accommodate teachers available to the directors of university establishments in their wilayas.

Details of the Operations

Overall, it is noted that this academic year which is experiencing a large influx has however benefited from consequent preparation in the field with the cooperation of the authorities involved. It is still true, as Mr Abdelhak Brerhi stressed in his speech at the national conference of COUS directors and vice chancellors last Saturday, that the measures taken must be supported by regular and continuous followup of the construction program which is decentralized at the wilaya level and which is still the only means of providing the required student places. At the same time, the emergency plan (prefabricated buildings) decided on by the government in 1981 must be conducted properly and rapidly completed. This program lightens the constraints and pressures on the establishments of higher education, particularly the large universities (Algiers, Oran, Constantine, Annaba).

The second limitation is at the teaching level. The first level of this limitation is the staff, since one of the conditions for educating the new

baccalaureat holders is to establish an appropriate staff structure: in number and in level. This must develop along with the student population growth rate, in other words at 25 percent. For the 1982-83 academic year, a recruiting campaign directed at professors abroad was launched in May 1982 and made possible the recruitment of about 500 new teachers.

To these must be added about 173 national students returning from education abroad. An appeal has been made to Algerian teachers working abroad. It did achieve some results, as about 20 Algerian teachers offered their services. But, the fact remains that only strengthening postgraduate education can provide the Algerian University with the necessary staff in the medium term. The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research must stress the need for planning postgraduate programs in order to provide sufficient coverage of national requirements through the year 2000. He has announced that a conference on postgraduate education planned for next November should make it possible to determine the extent of requirements and to form a workable plan for staffing; in other words, to succeed in implementing a continuous policy of educating educators.

Education-Training Reorganization

The other educational limitation is that a flagrant imbalance between scientific and literary disciplines is observed in the enrollment, with imbalances within each of the two groups. This poses a problem in the absence of a university academic orientation to regulate the flow, a regulation which has already begun in certain universities and for certain disciplines, while of course awaiting the reorganization of the training-educational system which is currently under study.

The MERS [expansion unknown] has asked the heads of university centers to conduct an information and awareness campaign this year for those concerned. In order to lessen the discrepancy, a first step has been taken for 1982-83 by opening a joint branch for technology only. By looking at enrollment, it enabled imbalances in this area to be lessened a bit. The possibility of splitting the joint biology branch is being considered.

Another limitation which results from all the others is that the University must train the managers required, in quantity and quality, for the country's development. Several programs have been revised this year, and others are being revised. The other aspect is the University's capability of providing the managers required for specific areas in the country's development. It is within this context that the program of decentralization of education which began several years ago has been strengthened this year by the establishment of about 15 faculties in university centers and the expansion of existing faculties.

As far as social affairs are concerned, the University currently provides room and board for close to 43 percent of its staff. The 4,200 new spaces completed this year will be made available to COUS during the fourth quarter of 1982.

Two Aspects of the 1982-83 Academic Year

The problem of student food services is also experiencing some difficulties. The COUS serve more than 170,000 meals per day. To exceed this limit means that the university cafeterias must receive regular and varied supplies on the one hand, and that food service resources be available on the other. It must also be stressed that interministerial cooperation has operated fully on this level, since the MERS and the Ministry of Commerce signed a joint agreement in June 1982 to make all the resources required for food service available to the COUS.

Although student transportation is provided by the MERS on all routes for a single subscription of 15 dinars per month, it is subsidized by the ministry at the rate of 60 dinars per student per month. This sector will be augmented in order to make it possible to lengthen the university day and to prevent excessive delays for students.

These facts show that the University of Algeria is increasing its possibilities for rigorous management with the conviction that it is time to profit from all the human and material resources which it has available to it.

Although limitations weigh on the Algerian University due to the greater and greater influx of new students, this situation reflects a strong move forward for higher education and training in Algeria, the result of the government's democratization effort which is already bearing fruit.

The 1982-83 academic year is marked by two aspects: the heavy pressure on the university and the coordinated participation of the state, even at the local level, in finding solutions. It is an undeniable fact that the beginning of the university year has become everyone's business because it is in the university that the sole guarantee of cultural, scientific, technical and economic independence resides.

9693
CSO: 4519/304

VALUE, MOTIVES OF U.S. AID PONDERED

Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic No 306, 5 Sep 82 p 15

[Article by Ihsan 'Abd al-Qaddus: "Weekly Feature: The Coffee House on Politics Street"]

[Text] The young man smiled at himself derisively and said:

"I have come to believe that I cannot rush behind my national sentiments unless I free myself of all the political information in my head. Scientists do not take part in national outbursts. All national movements and positions are ruined by scientists."

The old man said with surprise:

"What has science got to do with national sentiments? When national movements are founded on science and when scientists participate in their leadership, they can guarantee the attainment of their goals."

The young man said, his derisive smile broadening:

"Not at all. Take, for example, our national feeling toward the United States. We know that the United States gives Israel life. It supplies Israel with everything that achieves the goals of Zionism, which seeks to establish a greater Israel, from the Nile to the Euphrates. We believe that we cannot stop Israel from achieving its Zionist goals unless we stop the United States from giving Israel life. We will not stop the United States unless we rebel against it and lay to waste or threaten all its interests in our country, until we force it to choose between our rights and Israel's goals. This is our national feeling and belief. But science quickly prevails in our minds and we find ourselves repeating: Impossible. All of this is impossible, meaning that it is impossible to rebel against the United States and to threaten it with severing its interests in our country so that Egypt may not collapse and reach the abyss of starvation. Egypt now lives relying on U.S. aid, which exceeds $1 billion annually. Where can we make up for this billion that the United States generously gives us? Let us be frank with ourselves. Egypt has become like Israel. Both live relying on the United States to supply them with the requirements of life, beginning with the loaf of bread and ending with weaponry, with a big difference in

the quality of the loaf that Egypt gets and that that Israel gets and a still greater difference between the quality and quantity of the weapons that reach the two countries. Therefore, science assures us that the goal toward which our national sentiment and belief push us is impossible. Impossible."

The old man said coolly while blowing the smoke of his water pipe:

"You do not speak as a scientist but repeat the information that you read in the press. Were you a scientist, you would not exaggerate so much in assessing U.S. aid. Why does any country offer aid to another country? Aid, though based on a certain political situation, seeks fundamentally to strengthen and boost the local production of the country advancing the aid. This is why the United States makes it conditional that Egypt purchase with the entire sum of the aid U.S. products, that only U.S. experts and employees participate in the projects financed by this aid and that the equipment required for these projects be transported on U.S. ships. Moreover, the United States does not agree to finance any project from the aid unless its own production can absorb it and unless this production needs it, i.e., if Egypt thinks of setting up a project to produce al-Qinawi water jars, for example, the United States would refuse to aid the project because the United States does not produce the equipment for it and does not have experts and employees who understand al-Qinawi water jars. It so happened in the early 1970's, when the United States began to advance aid to Egypt, that the value of the aid it allocated amounted to $500 million. Shortly afterward, the Senate met and decided to reduce the aid to $350 million. Strong objections amounting to a rebellion erupted against the reduction. Do you know who led this rebellion? It wasn't Egypt. Those who led the rebellion were men of the U.S. firms that export equipment and experts to Egypt. At the time, one of those men was asked: Are you rebelling out of love for Egypt? The man said, charging the questioner with stupidity: This aid is not for Egypt but for us. Moreover, Egypt participates from its own budget with sums that amount to millions in the projects that depend on the U.S. aid. These millions come out of Egypt's pocket and are placed in the hands of the U.S. concern supervising the project. It is well known that the Americans exaggerate in assessing the salaries and recompense of their own experts to the degree that the salary of an ordinary expert reaches $5,000 monthly. Perhaps this is because they reckon that the aid money is their money and that they are more entitled to spend it on themselves than on the aided country. Once, the Egyptian government asked that an Egyptian expert--an expert who is considered so knowledgeable that all countries of the world seek his help--be appointed to administer one of the projects. The U.S. concern agreed to the appointment of this expert and set a monthly salary of $2,000 for him. Despite the vastness of this sum, the Egyptian expert turned it down out of self-respect when he found out that U.S. experts below his level working for the same project were earning $5,000. He said that as long as the Egyptian government participates in the project with Egyptian money alongside the aid money, then it is its right to intervene to determine the wages and recompense of the workers so as to at least insure equality between the Egyptians and the Americans. But what this expert said fell on deaf ears and so he decided not to take part in the project out of self-respect."

The old man raised his water pipe's mouthpiece to his lips, as if resting. But the young man hastened to ask:

"What is it that you want to convince me of with all these words?"

The old man said through his smoke:

"I want to convince you that you are exaggerating the value of the U.S. aid. I recently read a study proving that the value of the aid, amounting to $1 billion, is equal to $500 million in terms of the actual benefit that Egypt derives from it. This is perhaps due to the exorbitant prices that the aid imposes. You may purchase a nail from the United States for no more than 1 pound with nonaid money but if you buy it with aid money, you pay 10 pounds."

The young man said sharply:

"Even if what Egypt gets is no more than $500 million, how can we make up for this sum if the United States cuts it off? The West European countries cannot give us a single mil without U.S. approval and we cannot go back to Russia because it makes it conditional that we choose between it and the United States."

The old man said calmly:

"I am trying to convince you that aid is not a tip or a charity given to us by charitable people. Aid fosters common interests that enable you to preserve your freedom to express your political opinion. The West European countries have disagreed with the United States on supplying the Russian gas pipeline. Yet, the United States has not cut off its aid to them. The United States is still exporting grain to Russia despite the fierce hostility between them because there are common interests involved in the exports and imports. So do not assess the U.S. aid while expressing your opinion that is dictated to you by your national sentiment and belief."

The young man said derisively:

"It is an opinion that I can express only in words, while sitting in this coffee shop."

The old man said calmly, as if resigned to the reality:

"All of Egypt is nowadays sitting in a coffee shop--the world coffee shop--and its voice is heard."

8494
CSO: 4504/519

BAR ASSOCIATION BILL, FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS DISCUSSED

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic No 2828, 23 Aug 82 pp 24-25

[Article by Sana' Qabil: "Forthcoming Lawyer Elections Battle"]

[Text] On 26 June 1981, a decree was issued dissolving the Bar Association Council. A new provisional council was formed and debates and arguments erupted over this issue. The lawyers considered this solution a transgression of their legal rights and demanded that the old council be reinstated or that a new council [acceptable to the lawyers] be elected.

Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi, the provisional association chairman, submitted a bill on the legal profession that responded to most of the observations made by the lawyers who discussed the bill at their conferences.

But the provisional council introduced several fundamental amendments to the election system of the Bar Association Council and of the council chairman.

Neutral Committee

Recently, another decree was issued forming a neutral provisional committee comprised of members from outside the council to supervise the elections that are scheduled to take place in December 1983 in order to restore normal life to the association.

So what is the real story, what are the tasks of the new provisional council and what about the bill pertaining to the Bar Association?

I addressed these questions to Ahmad Yahya 'Abd al-Fattah, secretary of the new provisional council, who said:

The task of the present provisional Bar Association Council is, as I have imagined since termination of the task of the previous provisional council, to conduct the elections.

Holding the elections is the path to the restoration of normal activity and democracy to the Bar Association through the election of real and legitimate representatives of the lawyers. The sooner the elections are held, the sooner the situation will be corrected. This is why the current council demanded in

its first session amendment of the law so that the elections could be held within a maximum of 6 months as of the date of the promulgation of the law of 15 July 1982 and so that immediate preparations could be made for the elections.

The council hopes that this amendment will be approved soon.

[Question] What is your view of what happened in the Bar Association on 26 June 1981?

[Answer] My evaluation of the incidents that took place on that day accords with the legal evaluation, because the withdrawal of confidence from the Association Council follows certain procedures and because convocation of the general assembly requires a certain quorum. The convocation must be demanded by a certain number of lawyers from the Association Council and the reasons for demanding a withdrawal of confidence must be explained. The request is then submitted with the advance knowledge of the Association Council to the general assembly. For the convocation of this assembly to be correct, at least half the members, or 7,000, must attend. This did not happen on that day.

The general assembly had been summoned to an ordinary meeting with an agenda approved in advance by the existing Association Council. The assembly met to discuss this agenda, either to approve or to reject it. But for the assembly to deal with an issue not listed on the agenda and one that required a certain quorum--a quorum that was lacking, this was in complete violation of the law. This is my evaluation of what happened on 26 June, regardless of any differences in reports on the details.

Important Observations

[Question] What is your opinion of the bill prepared by Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi and presented by the previous provisional council to the People's Assembly? Do you have any observations on this bill?

[Answer] The bill presented by Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi is a bill that contains extensive interpretation intended to develop the legal profession and unionist action. But this has not prevented the voicing of numerous objections to and observations on the bill. Dr Jamal al-'Utayfi accepted most of the observations and did actually modify his bill to make it compatible with various opinions.

But when the bill was presented to the previous provisional council, the council approved it with the amendments made in accordance with the observations voiced. However, the council introduced serious amendments to the provisions pertaining to the elections. The first amendment introduced by the council pertains to the election of the association chairman. The chairman is elected directly by the lawyers who exercise their right to attend the general assembly and take part in the elections.

The amendment introduced by the previous provisional council calls for the chairman to be elected by the Association Council. This amendment denies the right of the lawyers to elect their chairman directly and weakens the power represented by the chairman in his capacity as representative of the lawyer masses. This is in addition to the subsequent weakening of the chairman's position vis-a-vis the Association Council, which elects him and to which he owes his loyalty, because this council has the power to withdraw its confidence from him.

We lawyers must always embrace the Bar Association Council with veneration and must keep it always free of attempts to weaken it--attempts contained in this proposed provision.

The second amendment pertains to the election of the Bar Association Council members. This amendment calls for the election of members from among lawyers in the provinces and governorates so that each governorate may elect one or more representatives to the Association Council. This undermines the tradition observed by the association for many years. The council represents all the lawyers in all parts of the republic.

Every lawyer in every governorate expresses his opinion on all the Association Council members and it is not difficult for the lawyers to make a sound judgment as to who their representatives should be.

Moreover, if a lawyer elects from among his governorate's lawyers only, he will then be electing from among a small number and this will make the election campaigns in the governorates extremely difficult, not to mention the fact that the elected member will try to please his governorate's lawyers. This is what we steer clear of in the elections because membership in the association is for serving common causes and all of the members.

Therefore, these two provisions must be amended and the direct general election of the chairman and Association Council members by the general assembly must be reinstated.

Ahmad Yahya, secretary of the provisional Bar Association Council, adds: "It remains to be said that this is the opinion of the lawyer masses in all positions."

Since the foundation of the Bar Association in 1912, its council has been dissolved only twice:

Once in 1954, after convocation of the monthly general assembly, because the council demanded that the military return to their barracks. But the appointed council included prominent figures--such as 'Abd al-Rahman al-Rafi'i, ex-association chairman 'Umar 'Umar, Zuhayr Jaranah and 'Ali Badawi al-Hinnawi--and was acceptable to all of the lawyers.

The second time was on 5 June 1971 in the wake of the correction revolution. The decree at the time called for dissolving the councils of all unions

and electing new councils. The elections took place 3 weeks later, on 26 June 1971.

The association has always been strong and has had its national role. The lawyers are awaiting the date of the elections to speak their piece and elect their representatives so that the association will once again become strong and effective in defending weighty issues.

8494
CSO: 4504/491

ARMED FORCES CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRODUCTION UNDERLINED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Sep 82 p 3

[Article by Ahmad Fu'ad]

[Text] Can the armed forces help solve the problems that afflict society, beginning with the loaf of bread and ending with the bottle of medicine?

It has now become obvious that there is no way to eliminate hardships and achieve a dignified existence for the citizens without increasing production. Can the armed forces, which have provided the example in many situations, lay new bricks in the production edifice?

All signs stress the armed forces' ability to meet this challenge. Their great capabilities, their specialized technical agencies in all fields and their previous experience confirm this ability.

Staff Maj Gen 'Ali Sa'id Ahmad, chairman of the Armed Forces Supply and Provisions Agency, says: "Production is one of our main goals in the armed forces. As Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and the minister of defense and war production, has stated, the armed forces must be productive and must participate with the civilian sector in building the production base, especially since the international conditions surrounding us make us focus on the need to build strategic reserves in all requirements so that we can wage future operations without further worsening the hardships on the public.

"The armed forces' course for achieving this goal has been set forth in detail. For the armed forces to fulfill their commitments in this regard, they must channel all of their efforts along two main axes:

"First, achieve self-sufficiency for the armed forces personnel gradually and to a degree that enables these forces to rely on their intrinsic resources, thus saving for the local market vast quantities of essential goods which were taken away in the past to meet the needs of the armed forces.

"Second, channel the surplus capabilities and resources possessed by the armed forces in the various fields toward building the national projects that contribute to the attainment of prosperity for the citizens in various fields."

The Armed Forces Supply and Provisions Agency participates in this regard with other agencies of the armed forces according to a clear and well-designed plan seeking to achieve the desired goal. God be thanked, encouraging results have been achieved so far despite the newness of this experiment. These results reflect the size of the work and the efforts exerted for the purpose.

In the sphere of realizing self-sufficiency for the armed forces personnel, a number of significant accomplishments have been scored, God be thanked.

Twenty-Two Million Eggs

A number of egg production units have been set up and their current production amounts to 22 million eggs annually. It is expected that these units will reach [full] production capacity and produce 60 million eggs annually. This is in addition to the plan to build another egg production complex with a capacity of 60 million eggs annually. The complex will include a plant for egg-laying hens, a hatchery, a feed production plant and 4 egg production units.

Poultry: A poultry production plant has been built, and it produces 20 tons of white meat per cycle. This is in addition to a plan to build a plant to fatten chicks with a capacity of 1.2 million birds annually.

Red meat: There are 12 meat units with a capacity of 20,000 head of livestock up to the end of (1983). These plants fatten select types of livestock fit for fattening and currently produce 200-250 tons of meat monthly at prices 30 percent lower than the prevalent price. This is in addition to plans for expanding fattening operations to raise capacity and make it possible to produce a reasonable surplus to be sold through outlets of the General Services Agency in order to alleviate the hardships experienced by armed forces personnel and their families. This will require the construction of an automatic slaughterhouse, including units to bone meat, to process leftovers and for deep freezing and preservation.

Dairy: A number of dairy production units relying on livestock strains fit for the purpose have been set up. These units currently produce 200 tons of dairy products monthly. This is in addition to plans for building new units for the production of buffalo milk with a capacity of 500 head of buffalo. The plans also call for building a cheese plant with a capacity of 10,000 tons of white cheese and 3,000 tons of processed cheese to meet armed forces needs, with the surplus to be sold to the families of the officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers.

Fish: Planning currently focuses on a fish hatchery on 600 feddans in one of the military units in Kafr al-Saykh Governorate prior to expansion in this direction in light of this experiment.

One Thousand Pounds To Reclaim One Feddan

In the agricultural sphere, a part of the armed forces' needs for legumes, vegetables and fruits has been supplied by reclaiming and cultivating 3,000

feddans of land within the lands of armed forces camps in al-Sharqiyah Governorate. The average cost of reclamation of a feddan amounts to nearly 1,000 pounds, keeping in mind that full coordination is established with the National Research Center to implement the latest scientific agricultural methods. This is in addition to plans to set up two complete agricultural complexes in al-Nubariyah and al-Fayyum, the first on 25,000 feddans and the second on 9,000 feddans. The necessary technical studies are now being conducted in cooperation with the civilian ministries concerned so that the complexes can be built on a well-studied scientific basis. Project implementation is to start at the end of this year.

Civilian Clothes and Shoes for Military

As for clothing, a number of production units needed to supply clothing to officers and troops has been set up in three areas. By completing the resources needed by these units, it will be possible to shift to production of part of the civilian clothing needed by the military. Such clothing will be marketed by the sales outlets that supply the military and their families with their needs. Moreover, a shoe plant has started production with a capacity of 1,000 pairs of shoes daily to meet the needs of the military at a cost 30 percent lower than the cost in the civilian sector. Preparations are underway to shift the plant's surplus production capacity toward civilian production. Moreover, a drug plant is expected to be built next year that will reduce the cost of antibiotics by 40 percent. Next October, a drug plant will be opened to meet armed forces needs for the main types of medicine and to transform the surplus production capacity toward civilian production at a later stage. Construction of this plant is scheduled to lower the current cost of antibiotics by 40 percent.

As for channelling surplus capabilities and resources toward participation with the civilian sector in various spheres, Staff Maj Gen 'Ali Sa'id Ahmad says that concerted efforts will be exerted in more than one direction:

One Thousand Kilometers of Railroad Lines

Agreement has been reached with the Railroad Authority that the railroad units of the [armed forces] Transportation Directorate will implement three important projects: modifying the course of a 75-kilometer stretch of the Cairo-Suez line from Darb al-Hajj to Fayid, carrying out repair and maintenance work for 346 kilometers of al-Wahat al-Bahriyah line and raising the capacity of the al-Gharbiyah-Alexandria-Matruh-al-Sallum line, not to mention the renewal work carried out in recent years for stretches of railroad lines totaling 1,000 kilometers.

Clearing Pileups in Ports

Efforts were also contributed last year to eliminating the pileup of nearly 200,000 tons of foodstuff and 800,000 tons of goods from Alexandria Port. We also cooperate with the Ministry of Supply in transporting the public's needs to all of the governorates on time.

Three Million Loaves of Bread To Be Added to Supply

Preparations are under way to open four complexes for bread production before the end of the year to bolster the capabilities of the civilian sector. Agreement has been reached to set up these complexes in al-Salam City, Nasr City, 15 May City in Hulwan and al-Haram to serve the Greater Cairo area. The complexes will have a capacity of 3 million loaves daily. Thus, the supply of daily bread to Greater Cairo will rise by 15 percent. The production lines and equipment are currently being manufactured at the Abu Qir plant in Alexandria. This is in addition to the efforts exerted to achieve self-sufficiency in bread needs for armed forces personnel.

Twenty-Four Million Notebooks for Ministry of Education

The armed forces also participated last year in producing nearly 24 million notebooks and 850,000 copies of textbooks for the Ministry of Education. We hope that the production will rise to 15 million [as published] notebooks and 1 million books in the near future.

Civilians Treated at Military Hospitals for Token Fees

The armed forces also help provide medical treatment to civilians at the specialized armed forces outpatient clinics for token fees. The number of civilian patients benefiting from these services has reached 80,000 patients. The civilian sector has also been supplied with 3,000 units of blood. This is in addition to the participation of armed forces doctors in research and delicate surgery.

Firefighting Units Take Part in Putting Out Fire in Suez Oil Fields

Efforts are currently underway to completely modernize firefighting systems in the armed forces. There is constant coordination and cooperation with the civilian firefighting outfits for effective cooperation to protect both military and civilian sites against fire and to conclude contracts for 250 modern fire engines to achieve this goal. This is in addition to other advanced type equipment to protect airports and other highly significant installations. The armed forces' firefighting units took part in putting out the latest fire in the oil areas in the Gulf of Suez.

The Supply and Provisions Agency plays an important role in training craftsmen and skilled workers. We annually supply the local market with skills that are undoubtedly considered a big gain and asset in many of the pursuits. For example, we graduate trained drivers who operate various kinds of trucks skilfully. We also graduate trained technical labor in the baking industry specialties and in precision railroad work, in operating river transportation and in mechanized loading and unloading operations, as well as skilled craftsmen in the apparel and shoe industries and in the various fields of animal production. We recently embarked on the sphere of agricultural production and on training skilled agricultural workers who combine agricultural experience as farmers with the experience of operating modern agricultural machinery and equipment, whether used in land reclamation or in agro-industry. Moreover,

to insure continuity and an ever-renewable source of trained labor, we have included in some fields [of training] teenagers 15 and above to enable them to gain the necessary experience and skill and to insure long-range benefits.

Within the framework of this thinking, the armed forces are moving forward to achieve the desired goal of serving Egypt with work, effort and sacrifice.

8494
CSO: 4504/509

CENTRAL AGENCY SEEN NECESSARY FOR MANAGEMENT OF PORT PROJECTS

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic No 714, 7 Sep 82 pp 30-31

[Article by Rear Admiral (Ret) Ahmad Salah al-Din Badr: "Disorder in Egyptian Ports"]

[Text] In a previous article, we reviewed the number of government agencies and committees controlling Egyptian ports. We also reviewed the legislation leading to fragmentation of the Central Agency for Ports and [Port] Installation Planning controlled by the Ports and Lighthouses Authority and to the dispersion of this agency among the public port authorities--fragmentation and dispersion that finally led to bringing in foreign expertise to fill the vacuum manufactured by the government through its promulgation of that legislation.

We will also find [in this article] how far the principle of centralism and sovereignty applies to the planning of ports and the operations of naval installations. It also behooves us to explain the conditions prevailing in the Egyptian ports because of a number of opportunists.

We start by observing that in addition to the six government agencies and committees controlling Egyptian ports, there are other government agencies from outside the purely marine transport sector that control and dominate the progress of work at a port, of which we mention the governor, within whose jurisdiction a port is located; the Ministry of Economy, represented in the Customs Agency; the Ministry of Interior, represented in security, guards, passports and the immigration and naturalization departments; the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, represented in the medical, veterinary and agricultural quarantine department; the Ministry of Defense; the Railroad Authority; and, finally, the minister of housing and reconstruction. We must add to these agencies the Egyptian Marine Supplies Company and the Egyptian Petroleum Company by virtue of their responsibility for providing supplies to ships.

All these agencies, both governmental and public sector, are not controlled or supervised by any of the port authorities even though their performance is directly tied to the performance of a port as a whole and even though these agencies control a port every hour of the day, every day of the year and every year of the port's life. Meanwhile, we find that the centralism of the "port

projects and installations" is fragmented and that these projects are forcibly squeezed into the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the port authorities, even though these authorities are not directly connected with a port's daily performance and do not control the progress of its work.

Which is more entitled to centralism and sovereignty: Port planning and naval installation projects or medical, veterinary and agricultural quarantine?

I beg the marine society in Egypt to be magnanimous and to listen to what the minister of transport, communication and maritime transport said in his statement published by the Egyptian press on 11 November 1981 on what had taken place at the meeting of the Higher Ports Council:

First, Port Said: Al-Sayyid Sarhan, the governor of Port Said, "will present the final studies on developing and raising the efficiency of Port Said port."

Second, the work situation at Damietta Port: "Engr Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing and of reconstruction, has reviewed the steps taken to conclude the contract with the firm constructing the port...etc."

Third, al-Dakhilah Port project: "Engr Taha Zaki, minister of industry, has reviewed al-Dakhilah Port project, on which work is currently in progress, and it has become evident that a contract has been concluded to construct the piers for the mining products. Before the end of this year, a contract will be concluded to construct the piers for general goods."

Fourth, al-Adabiyah Port: "It has been decided to construct a new 150-meter-long pier at the port to be set aside for unloading wheat; it will be ready for operation in a year."

Where is the logic in these statements?

How could the Higher Ports Council put up with listening to this mess?

It is no surprise then that the Egyptian port projects are faltering and losing their balance between the lack of specialization on the part of the governors, the aspirations of the chairmen of the port authorities and the criss-crossing of the ministries' actions--a situation created by the absence of a central agency for port planning and construction, which would hold in its hands the threads of port strategy, balance their priorities and protect them from chaos and aimlessness.

Let us ignore, temporarily, what the minister said in his statement on the ports of Port Said, Damietta and al-Dakhilah, and let us beg the minister to be kind enough to make, thankfully, a statement or issue a press release that reassures us regarding the fate of the grain pier that the Ministry of Supply has been determined and is still determined to construct at al-Adabiyah port--a port that his excellency the minister said would be ready for operation within a year, i.e., in nearly 6 months from now! Or is the truth too bitter for anyone to pronounce? As far as we know, and only God and the chairman

of the Red Sea Ports Authority know for sure, there are certain fingers that have manipulated this project and turned it into a project for vast and spacious installations that heap pomp and grandeur on the owners of these fingers, with no regard for grain imports, especially Australian wheat, or for their delivery rates. This issue--the issue of al-Adabiyah grain pier--was discussed by the Higher Ports Authority more than once, and the plan prepared by the Ports and Lighthouses Authority--an authority (that exerted exhaustive efforts) in preparing and designing this plan to serve the broad base of Egypt's citizens--was approved. What has become of this plan? I don't know to whom to address this question: To the minister of supply, to the governor of Suez, to the minister of transport, to the minister of defense, to the chairman of the Public Red Sea Ports Authority or to all of them?

Perhaps we have noticed that the statements of the minister of transport communication and maritime transport confirmed what the legislation has done in ceding the state's sovereignty in the sphere of port planning and maritime installations and in dividing this sovereignty among foreign expertise, the ministries, the governorates and the port authorities. This not only means that port planning has not been transferred from the central government to the local governments but also that the jurisdiction over and responsibility for this planning has been scattered among more than one government agency and more than one foreign company.

There is a line separating management decentralism from planning centralism. This line is clearer in the ports sector because the planning of national ports is considered one of the threads of the state's economic and military strategy. A seaport, gentlemen officials, is an organic cell in the national economy's environment, which includes, among other things, a "port" and not a "facility." We can never equate the plans to develop the zoo and Antoniadis' Garden in Alexandria Governorate, for example, with the plans to develop Alexandria Port or to build al-Dakhilah Port. The two [types of plans] might be analogous if Alexandria Port were employed basically to serve the governorate, if its revenues went to the governorate treasury and if it were a governorate facility. Is this the situation existing presently or targeted in the future?

On the other hand, and regardless of the jurisdiction and the responsibilities, plans to develop the existing ports and to build new ones seek to raise the capacity in stages and by the year 2000 to nearly 120 million tons of Egypt's foreign trade.

By necessity, these projects will be accompanied by other projects to expand the capacity of land, rail and river transport networks leading to the interior of the country. This means that the construction of a seaport or the mere raising of the capacity of one of the existing ports is a major state project whose planning, blueprinting and execution follow-up must not be entrusted to the local governments, be they governorates or port authorities. Or is it that confusion and laxity have become the characteristic of planning and management in Egypt? The governor of North Sinai is building al-'Arish Port, the South Sinai governor is building Sharm al-Shaykh Port, the governor

of Port Said is building a new port south of the present Port Said port, the Damietta governor, along with the minister of housing, is building the Damietta Port, the minister of petroleum is building the ports of Zunaymah, Bala'im and Abu Rudays, the minister of industry is building al-Dakhilah Port, the heads of the port authorities are constructing whatever piers, buildings and dockyards they desire in their ports, the minister of defense is building the ports of Matruh and Abu Qir, and only God knows what looseness the future will bring in the planning of Egyptian ports and maritime projects or when the government will return to the virtue of what is right.

Fragmentation of the agency for the planning of ports and maritime projects and installations and the scattering of the expertise of this agency, as well as the freeing of port authorities of government red tape, have resulted in the following:

1. The decline of expertise in this field in the Ports and Lighthouses Agency and, at the same time, the failure of this expertise to grow in the public port authorities. Thus, this expertise has neither retained its central strength nor been benefited by being scattered.

2. The abstaining by graduates of engineering colleges from working in the Ports and Lighthouses Agency because of the low wages and the lack of promotion opportunities under the canopy of government red tape, along with the scarcity of work opportunities in the port authorities, which do not have the capacity to absorb them. Matters have reached the point where the port engineering sections in our universities have almost vanished and the graduates of such sections have become nearly extinct. This is a great loss the likes of which was not experienced even in the darkest days of the 'Alawi dynasty's rule.

3. Whatever remains of this expertise has turned to foreign expertise and companies operating in this field in search of high wages and salaries. Thus, the government's sovereignty and control over plans and installations for Egyptian ports have dwindled and the state has fallen hostage to these foreign agencies and companies.

On the other hand, centralized planning of ports and of maritime engineering projects, under the canopy of freedom from government red tape, achieves various benefits, of which we will mention:

1. Working--insofar as planning, follow-up and control are concerned--within a single framework emanating from state strategy.

2. Flexibility in the implementation of projects and subjecting such projects to the state's control and authority.

3. Central control over project budgets.

4. Gaining and developing expertise in this sphere to serve the ports beneficially in the future, until after the year 2000, and the possibility of benefiting from this expertise in similar projects.

5. The possibility of reducing expenditure on the projects as a result of economizing in effort, money and materials. This economizing results from using the surplus labor and money in one project in implementing another project in another port to replace the independence of each project with its materials and labor and the increasing rate of loss that can result--a loss estimated in these cases at hundreds of thousands of pounds or great volume of capacity.

6. Reducing the use of foreign expertise and confining their assistance to specified limits, depending on what the central agency deems necessary to complete projects or make up for a shortage. Consequently, we will rid ourselves of the exorbitant costs of these companies and their domination.

7. Enabling port authorities to devote their full time to improving and developing the system of port management and operation, enhancing the performance level and confining their efforts to dredging and maintenance operations so that control over a port's various sectors and activities can be achieved.

8. Avoiding the inevitable conflicts and clashes between agencies with similar jurisdictions divided among various departments lacking a single leadership and similarity of aims.

With this article and this comparison, we have demonstrated what is right, vanquished what is false and exposed the areas of looseness and the causes of disorder. In all this, it does not concern us where the agency for planning ports and maritime installation projects is located on the government organizational map as long as this agency maintains its centralism and its ability to tend to the state's sovereignty and exercise its legitimate powers.

8494
CSO: 4504/524

BRIEFS

PROFESSORS FOR REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES--Before the start of the current academic year, the National Education and Scientific Research Council urged the need to speedily make up for the shortage of professors in the regional universities either through internal and foreign loans or by bolstering local capabilities. The number of students in these universities exceeded 188,000 last year, and the ratio of faculty members to students is below that prevailing at advanced or developing universities. At Cairo University, the ratio is one professor per 38 students and in al-Zaqaziq it is 1:76, but it reaches 1:1,027 at the Aswan Education College and 1:1,507 at al-Zaqaziq Education College. The council has asserted that abolition of the system of chair professors has caused the faculty members of the old universities to decline transfer to the regional universities, considering that an instructor serves at the old universities a certain number of years after which he is promoted to a higher position. [Text] [Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic No 2830, 6 Sep 82 p 8] 8494

CSO: 4504/519

OFFICIAL ON REQUIREMENTS FOR RECONSTRUCTION

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1347, 27 Aug 82 p 45

[Interview with Dr Muhammad 'Atallah, Chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Council, by Samiyah Arsalan: "The Extraordinary Destruction Requires Extraordinary Efforts; The World Has No Choice But to Rebuild Lebanon!]

[Text] During AL-HAWADITH's interview with Dr Muhammad 'Atallah, Chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Council, the discussion revolved around development before 1975 and the future of reconstruction and growth in Lebanon after the war. Dr Muhammad was optimistic for Lebanon's future, provided that certain elements, security being the foremost, are present. Lebanon enjoys certain distinctions arising from its geography, history, society and the character of its people. After emerging from the crisis, Lebanon may be able to reaffirm these distinctions by creating certain conditions described by Dr 'Atallah in this interview, which began with the following question:

[Question] Are you knowledgeable about all the large projects which the government had planned before the war and before the establishment of the Development and Reconstruction Council, which were to be completed during these 7 years? What advantages were expected from these projects that Lebanon has missed out on?

[Answer] Lebanon's economy in general was booming before the war. It was on the threshold of an economic boom which would remedy weak spots in the private and public sectors. The private sector was completing its infrastructure: the financial sector was exceeding the limit for horizontal development (the limit of increase in the number and size of commercial banks) to create establishments concerned with long-term financial operations and which specialize in all the producing sectors, such as industry, agriculture, tourism, etc. The public sector had drawn up development plans which contained specific steps in the public sector and directives and incentives for the private sector. The public sector was particularly interested in creating the infrastructure such as roads, hospitals, school buildings and electric power. However, the main flaw was the weak effect the public sector had in the social realm as far as health, social,

educational and housing services. Demands grew stronger that the standards of the public sector be raised to those appropriate for a country with a modern government. Despite the state's small revenue due to the shortcomings of the tax system, it managed to take on projects beyond its capabilities, even though it was well known that it received only a very small amount of outside aid. This might explain the state's relative negligence in the social field. After the 1975-1976 war, the state of course lost more revenue, while new burdens were placed on it.

[Question] Do you believe that Lebanon will resume its economic, commercial and construction activities if it overcomes the current crisis?

[Answer] The distinctions that Lebanon enjoys--its geography, history, society and the character of its people--were not lost. In addition, there were the efforts that strengthen peoples and preserve their character. After Lebanon emerges from the crisis, it may be able to reaffirm these special characteristics which it enjoys because of the accumulations of history and increase their value if, in addition to the necessary security, there is a system for using them, especially since the need for such characteristics has increased. Its activities will include traditional ones such as services, especially in the financial and commercial fields. They will also include agriculture, since the human resources are available and the soil is varied, which may afford the opportunity to push industrialized agriculture, which of course requires available capital.

Although there are great possibilities for tourism in Lebanon, the developments that the country has witnessed have prevented this sector from developing the way it should have. As a result of the latest events, tourism has been dealt a very severe blow. The industrial sector is enabling Lebanon to turn to building new industries of strengthening existing industries in which the Lebanese have special abilities in marketing and production.

[Question] If this peace returns, will foreign companies and Arab capital choose Lebanon to be their headquarters in the Middle East as in the past?

[Answer] I answered this question in my answer to the previous question. What I would like to stress is that Lebanon did not lose its characteristics, but their depth. Companies and capital do not choose their headquartesr for emotional reasons, but take into consideration a favorable atmosphere and the business opportunities available. We can provide these because the active sectors did not cease functioning, but spread abroad, increasing their ability to operate and attract capital.

[Question] They say that the Lebanese government is in the process of drawing up a new study on rebuilding and restoring Lebanon. Has this happened, and what do you think this reconstruction will cost? Do you think foreign assistance will meet requirements?

[Answer] The task of the Development and Reconstruction Council is not to draw up studies on reconstruction but to continuously monitor reconstruction, which will require reviewing the slate of development projects, refining it

and giving it more depth. After the plan that the council drew up in 1978 based on the damages caused by the events of 1976 and 1976, Lebanon was hit with much more significant damages, especially after the recent Israeli invasion. We must set aside larger amounts in all fields because the damage is the greatest yet, especially where essentials are concerned--drinking water, housing, schools, hospitals, roads, means of transportation and irrigation, electricity and airports. We have seen projects to rebuild all of these, and the damage has actually increased. There has also been damage to the producing sectors--agriculture, industry and tourism--which has affected people's livelihoods. For these reasons, the 1978 cost estimate for repairing the damage has at least doubled, not just because of inflation, but because our goal is to bring about improvements, not merely to repair the surface, and because the damage to Lebanon has been mounting continually, with the most recent damage the greatest.

I would like to make three observations:

One, there is no alternative to reconstruction.

Two, we will achieve reconstruction first of all through our resources. We each have a load to bear.

Three, we have the right to ask the entire world for help to carry out this exceptional effort which is required in the fact of the exceptional damage that has occurred. Fortunately, we have received favorable responses from the Arab and other friendly countries and the regional and international organizations. However, until now and despite good intentions, the assistance (that announced and the amount given from that announced) is much less than Lebanon deserves. This is -rue not only because Lebanon is worthy of this assistance, but because it bears the problems of the region and of the world, and because rebuilding Lebanon is an essential project for the region and the world.

[Question] Are the circumstances of our lives threatening Lebanon's dominance in economic matters and tourism in the Middle East, since strong, obvious competition has appeared lately?

[Answer] Lebanon is destined to live its life in danger: its life as a country and as the residents of a country who want to be sure they have food to eat. This may be the secret of its success and supremacy. We hope that, as Lebanon succeeded in economic competition in the past, it will prepare itself for teh battle of superiority. Things may have been easier for Lebanon in the past. It must now depend less on its good fortune and more on its efforts.

9882
CSO: 4404/694

USE OF ISRAELI PORTS

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1347, 27 Aug 82

[Article by 'Adnan Karima: "Partners...or Agents!"]

[Text] In the framework of normalizing economic relations, Israeli authorities are trying to encourage Lebanese merchants to import goods from abroad through the port of Haifa. Apparently some deals are about to be implemented on the basis that shipping costs from the port of Haifa to southern Lebanon are less than those from the Beirut port to the same area (according to Israeli claims).

Israel, which continually relies on force to implement the steps for economic normalization between the two countries, wants to close the port of Beirut for the longest time possible and to prevent the use of the ports of Sidon and Tyre, hoping to increase the number of Lebanese merchants who deal with Israeli ports so that they, with Israeli merchants, will form the nucleus of active, future trading between these ports and Arab markets!

This is part of an Israeli plan to strike at the Lebanese economy, which uses the Beirut port as its main gateway, and there by control commerce in the Arab world.

Perhaps what bothered Israel was Lebanon's emerging from a 7-year war with the economic wherewithal to continue to play an effective role in the Middle East, leaving Israel no choice but to strike a blow at these economic means in order to achieve her goals.

One can conclude from studies prepared by several Israeli ministers and experts that all the proposals related to transport services in the region drawn up in implementation of the Camp David accords aim at relocating the ports along the land route which serve passing trade from their present sites (Beirut, al-Ladhiqiyah and Tartus), instead of those which can be developed such as Tripoli, Sidon and Baniyas, to Israeli ports and reinforcing this move--according to one of the studies--by improving links between the ports and the interior with new roads and railroads and by bringing Egypt and Jordan into a communications network in the region.

Israel seems to acknowledge the Lebanese's ability to adapt to events and circumstances. He observed that the triangular trade activity moved to Tripoli and Syrianports such as al-Ladhiqiyah and Tartus after the closure of the port of Beirut. Lebanese merchants managed to export foreign goods, imported through the port of Tripoli, to Arab countries to the tune of approximately 40 million pounds in the month of June alone, the first month of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Moreover, Tripoli is a small port with no specialized off-loading capabilities.

For these reasons, the Israelis want the participation of Lebanese merchants as a first step in importing through the port of Haifa and to use their expertise and their clients in the Arab markets, in preparation for eliminating them at a later stage or using them as agents...with no share in the profits.

Lebanese merchants must be careful and not fall into the trap the Israelis have prepared for them and for other Arab merchants and businessmen!

9882
CSO: 4404/694

BRIEFS

GAS PRICES--Even though Minister of Industry and Oil Muhammad Yusuf Baydun, in an official decree, set a fixed price of 30 Lebanese pounds for a 20-liter can of gas, this price is in effect only in the north, which is supplied by the Tripoli refinery. In the other areas, gas prices vary according to the circumstances. In the east, gas prices reach 33 pounds per can because 3 pounds goes to the parties. In the south, prices reach 65 pounds per can for inflated Israeli gasoline, which is supported by the Israeli government, but apparently this support does not include Lebanese consumption. In West Beirut and its suburbs surrounded by Israeli occupation forces, the price of a can of gasoline has reached 400 Lebanese pounds because of teh inflated amounts paid at the points controlling the siege, in addition to the seller's greed and his taking advantage of the situation. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1347, 27 Aug 82 p 43] 9882

REBUILDING COSTS--During the last 2 weeks, President Ilyas Sarkis has submitted many preliminary estimates of the total material losses suffered by the Lebanese as a result of the war, from the beginning of the Israeli occupation to today, particularly in Beirut. These estimates all confirmed that material losses were heavy, approximately 50 billion Lebanese pounds at the least. Cabinet sources have said that Lebanon actually needs a "Marshall Plan" shared in by the Arab oil countries and a number of important countries including America and France, to recover from these losses. Initial discussions of this idea have been held and will be completed after authority is transfered next month from President Sarkis to the new president. Economic experts believe that even though things look black now, th- Lebanese can come out of the tragedy with amazing speed if he has security and ceases all talk of the incidents of war. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1347, 27 Aug 82 p 43] 9882

PRICES OF SMUGGLED GOODS--Some dealers in the luxury goods that used to enter Lebanon through illegal ports or smuggling operations have dared to raise their prices by 25 or 35 percent. When the retailers asked them why, they said that it was because smuggling might be stopped and their costs would go up because they would pay customs fees on goods imported into Lebanon, reducing their rate of profit! Therefore, they have begun to put new prices on their goods, especially since there is a considerable demand for them despite developments in the security situation. If the legitimate authorities

return to the ports of entry with the coming of the new era and normal business activity is resumed, experts expect customs revenue for this year to reach approximately 1 billion Lebanese pounds, more than double last year's revenue. Minister of Finance Dr 'Ali al-Khalil hopes that next year's customs revenue will be more than 2 billion pounds. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1347, 27 Aug 82 p 43] 9882

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT CONSIDERED--Meeting in the home of deputy Kazim al-Khalil in al-Hazimiyah, a number of deputies discussed with officers of the internal security force the current security situation and the stern measures required (to control it). The officers and deputies agreed that security cannot return and become stabilized except by the passage of some tough emergency laws, chiefly the reinstatement of capital punishment. Several deputies present pledged to make a study of the legal aspects of the proposal. [Text] [London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic No 1349, 10 Sep 82 p 6] 5214

CSO: 4404/689

ELECTRICITY STATISTICS EXAMINED

Tripoli AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic 9 Aug 82 p 6

[Article: "Electricity, Key to Prosperity"]

[Text] At the present time, electricity is considered one of the most important necessities for the individual and the community. Understanding it has advanced with the development of economic and social life. The glorious 1 September revolution has understood this fact since its inception. This has resulted in great importance being attached to the electricity sector, since it has a clear influence on all the other sectors. This in turn has led to the development of this sector, so that it can fulfill the current and future needs, using the most advanced scientific methods.

When the glorious revolution arrived, it found the economic sectors in the country to be modest, or rather, some of them were backward, preventing the desired progress from taking place. The first years of the revolution saw tireless efforts toward achieving two parallel plans. The first was aimed at improving and developing various aspects of economic activity, through urgent and rapid solutions, which in fact came to fruition during the period from September 1969 to 31 March 1973. The second plan was aimed at laying the general framework for the 3-year (1973-75) growth plan for all the sectors in the Jamahiriyah, in order to be the basis for a sound economic structure.

If it hadn't been for this, the 5-year change plan for 1976-80 would not have had such a sound economic basis, driving towards the planned hopes and goals of all aspects of economic activity on the pan-Arab level.

The general level of electricity in 1970 was modest, since the installed capacity of generator plants operating at that time was 250 megawatts, compared to the demand for electrical energy of a total of 151 megawatts. The highest pressure for the network was 11 kv. In that year, 676 megawatts could be produced, of which 335 kilowatts per hour was the share of each individual in the Jamahiriyah.

At that time, the specific profile of installed capacity for generator plants was based on gas plants intended to produce 40 percent of total capacity. This was followed by diesel generators of 36 percent. Then, steam generators came into favor, with a 24 percent capacity, Note that this type of plant is best from the economical standpoint.

To explain chart number 1, pertaining to the "general structure of activity in the electricity sector," and number 2, "development of the percentage of specific mix of operating generators," we should note that the installed capacity to the end of the 3-year plan (1973-75) jumped to 879 megawatts, i.e., 352 percent of the 1970 capacity, compared to the demand for electricity which had risen to 393 megawatts over an average of 260 percent for 1970. Consequently, the increased energy generated amounted to 1869 megawatts or some 276 percent over the amount in 1970. Along with this, the individual share of energy produced increased to 734 kw/hour, instead of 335 kw/hour in 1970.

The actual cost of the 3-year plan was 210.4 million dinars.

General Structure of Electricity Sector Activity

Accomplishments of the 5-Year Plan, 1976-80

The 1976-80 plan was distinguished in the field of electrical energy development and the relative rise in desalinated water, since the percentage of actual investment was 105 percent of the amount planned. Therefore, the percentage of increased installed capacity for the generator plants was 122 percent of what it was in 1975, or 157 percent of total energy produced. Regarding desalinated seawater, the average growth rate amounted to 100 percent over the 1975 figure. Moreover, the amount of desalinated water produced in 1980 was 19 million cubic meters, compared to nothing produced in 1975. Therefore, we can say that one of the most important aspects of this plan was the attention paid to the desalinated seawater program.

In the area of distribution, the length of the high tension networks (220kv) amounted to 1830 km, instead of the 445 km of 1975.

In addition to the reduction of rates on the network, there was a cutback on consumer rates for fuel.

Financial Report for the 1976-80 5-Year Plan

The 1976-80 5-year plan included eight programs. The first was the main article: "The program of generating plants, desalination, transportation and distribution." This included two subsections, one for the generating of energy and the other for its transporting and distribution.

As for the other articles of the programs, they were subordinate to and in service of the first main article.

Therefore, it is not strange that the first article monopolized some 89 percent of the total financial allocations for the plan. The estimated cost of expenditures for the targetted growth during the 5-year period was 870.7 million dinars. The share of the generating program and the desalination program was 350.4 million dinars, i.e., 40 percent. The transportation and distribution program was 425.9 million dinars, or 49 percent of the total allocations.

When we compare the estimated expenditure for the 5-year plan with the previous period (1973-75), we find that it is 344 percent more. That comparison requires adjusting the aforementioned 3-year plan into five time units, so that the time factor agrees in both of the two plans. Thus, we find that the 5-year plan (1976-80) amounted to some 206 percent of the sum of the average allocations for the previous plan, after the adjustments.

This clearly reflects the enormity of the program targetted for the change plan. At the same time, it laid a sound foundation for the enormous electricity blast-off of the next 5-year plan (1981-85), whose allocations will amount to 2 billion dinars, i.e., some 229 percent of the 1976-80 plan allocations.

In order to implement the programs targetted in the plan, the amount of 916.2 million dinars was expended during the plan. Therefore, the average investment of 105 percent of the goal was attained.

By comparing the growth size attained during the 5-year plan (1976-80) with that achieved in the 3-year plan (73-75), it is clear that it was some 434 percent. By adjusting the 3-year plan into 5 time units, it is some 260 percent of the growth size attained during the previous plan.

The first article, "Program of Generator Plants and Networks," had the largest share of expenditures, since it amounted to 808.5 million dinars, or 88 percent.

The 5-year plan (1976-80) implemented a group of contracts and commitments, amounting to a total of 1513.9 million dinars, some of which was transferred from the previous 3-year plan, since the amount of 151.7 million dinars was spent on it, during the years before the plan.

The balance of contracts and commitments during the change plan of 1976-80 amounted to 1362.2 million dinars, of which 870.7 million dinars was allocated for expenditure. However, the actual cost exceeded the allocations, and the 916.2 million dinars spent exceeded that by 35.5 million dinars, i.e., some 5 percent of allocations.

The relative growth formation achieved during the plan's years is as follows:

The balance of existing contracts and commitments during the plan was 1.4 billion dinars.

The growth formation achieved during 1976 was 128.3 million dinars, 9 percent.

The growth formation achieved during 1977 was 142.4 million dinars, or 11 percent.

The growth formation achieved during 1978 was 150.5 million dinars, 11 percent.

The growth formation achieved during 1979 was 218.8 million dinars, or some 16 percent.

The growth formation achieved during 1980 was 276.2 million dinars, or 20 percent.

The total of the relative growth formation achieved during the 1976-80 plan was 67 percent.

The Strategy and Goals of the 1981-85 5-Year Plan

The creation of rapid growth in generation and distributing, in order to ensure fulfilling the increasing national economic needs for energy, is the strategic framework of the 1981-85 5-year plan. This is aimed at:

A. Increasing the installed generating capacity from 1950 megawatts to 3970 megawatts in 1985, so that it would ensure raising the total energy produced from 4800 megawatts per hour in 1980, to 9400 megawatts per hour in 1985. This would raise the individual's share from 1479 kw/hour in 1980 to 2373 kw/hour in 1985.

B. Increase the installed desalination capacity from 182.7 thousand cubic meters per day in 1980 to 294.9 thousand cubic meters per day in 1985, along with raising the energy produced from 19 million cubic meters to 28 million cubic meters in 1985.

C. Reduce the percentage of energy loss in the transportation and distribution networks from 31 percent to 25 percent by 1985.

D. Raise the production efficiency of producers, along with increasing the number of nationals among them.

Diverse Goals of the 5-Year Plan (1981-85)

A. Generating Plants:

The plan is aimed at raising the installed capacity from 1950 megawatts in 1980 to 3970 in 1985, along with making a specific change in the production structure, by concentrating on steam generators, so that they have a 78 percent share, instead of the 56 percent share of total installed capacity in 1980. This can be achieved by establishing several projects, such as the five steam generators (480 megawatts) in Zawarah, al-Zuwattinah, (480 megawatts for each of those two) Wadi al-Aril (70 megawatts), al-Sarir and Subha (111 megawatts for each). In addition, expansion has been planned for some operating plants.

B. Desalination Plants:

Requirements for desalinated water by 1985 are estimated at about 887,000 cubic meters per day. Accordingly, the plan is aimed at raising the installed capacity of desalination plants from 182.7 thousand cubic meters per day in 1980, to 294.9 thousand cubic meters per day in 1985, i.e., 33.3 percent of the needs. Accordingly, the amount of desalinated water produced will rise from 19 million cubic meters to 28 million cubic meters in 1985. This will be done by completing

the five steam plants with a capacity of 132,000 cubic meters per day, and creating new energy estimated at 80,000 cubic meters per day.

C. Transportation and Distribution Networks

The plan is aimed at creating a single network for the Jamahiriyah, in order to achieve a continuity of coverage, along with achieving maximum usage of installed capacities, and consequently, to reduce the reserves of installed capacity, in addition to reducing the production costs and reducing the percentage of loss on the networks from 31 to 25 percent by 1985. The plan's projects include building 2825 km of high tension networks, 420k/min 22/5 k/min from 66 kv networks, and 13,000 km of medium and low tension networks, along with tying in all of the various distribution networks with the transformer stations.

Studies and Research

In view of the rising proficiency level that distinguishes the energy generating and distribution projects, aside from its rapid development, efforts must be concentrated on accompanying it with continuous movement to benefit from those projects and to invest their results, in order to raise the efficiency of operation and reduce production costs. In addition, studies must be conducted on the feasibility of benefiting from alternative sources of energy, such as solar and wind.

3. Training:

Progress in the production and distribution of energy basically depends on applying modern, scientific methods, and accordingly, it is necessary to form and prepare skills capable of accommodating the technical development. Therefore, the plan was targetted against completing and establishing training institutes and centers, in order to increase the number of graduates to some 1080 by 1985, instead of the 350 graduates of 1980.

Actual and Probable Accomplishments during 1981

A. Energy Generating Plants:

* First stage of the five steam plants with a capacity of 120 megawatts

* Seawater brought into the generator plant in Sarat

* Diesel generators in al-Jafrah, Ghadamas and Hawn.

* Diesel generators in Wadi al-Shati', al-Ajal, Marzaq, Subha and al-'Awainat.

B. Seawater Desalination Plants

* Units to treat distilled water produced by desalination in Ben Jawwad, Zalaytan, Zawwarah and Sarat

* Supplying a chemical plant with water and fuel

* Installing water storage tanks

C. Lines and Networks

* Connecting the five steam plants with the Masratihah switching station

* Build 220 kv plants in Ghariyan, Tarhunah, al-Hadhbah and al-Khadhra', and expand the station for West Masratihah, al-Qadahiyah, Sarat, the industrial area, al-Qarrah, Bulli al-Fatih, Bab al-'Aziziyah, Ajad Abya, al-Tamimi, Maradah and al-Bariqah.

* Connect Nalut on the public network with the 220 kv transformer station

* Expand the control station in Benghazi, 220 kv, 30 kv, and Tobruk 60/30/11 kv

* 66 kv transformer stations in al-Jabal al-Gharbi

* Complete the transformer station in New Subha, tension of 66 kv

* 66 kv lines from Tobruk to Amsa'id

* Electrify the agricultural wells in al-Sarir al-Shamali

* Transformer stations and 66 kv cells

* Extend 30/11 kv cables to connect the transformer station in the city of al-Zawiyah.

Economic and Social Benefits Accruing to the Jamahiriyah as a Result of the Electricity Sector's Accomplishments Since the Glorious Revolution in 1969

The concept of using electrical energy for simple service purposes, in the broad sense, developed by virtue of the fact that it was one of the principle economic inputs into agriculture and industry.

* Increased number of generating plants in operation, and an increased installed capacity, permitting compliance with the huge loads resulting from growth and development projects, for which the revolution has planned.

* Increased the amount of electrical energy produced, and raised the individual's share in the Jamahiriyah.

* Modernized the operating generating plants and made changes in the specific structure, so that the main dependence is on steam plants, with economy of operation and production, instead of gas or diesel generators.

* Increased operating network pressure, since its current pressure amounts to 220 kv, instead of the 11 kv at the beginning of the revolution. In addition,

Chart #1

General Level Statement	Unit	In Year of Measurement	Growth Level: Result of 1970 Plan 73-75	Result of 3-Year Plan 76-80	Goals of Change Plan 81-85
Electricity Sector desired	Mega-watts	151	393	990	1850
Installed capacity in operating stations	"	250	879	1950	3970
Electrical energy produced	Megawatts/ hour	676	1869	4800	9400
Individual's share of energy produced	Kilowatts/ hour	335	734	1479	2373

Result of Change Plan 73-75	Result of 3-Year Plan 76-80	Coals of Change Plan 81-85
260	656	1225
352	780	1588
276	710	1391
219	441	708

Chart #2

Development of Percentage of Specific Mix of Operating Generators

Size of Installed Capacity in Generators and their Relative Distribution

Statement	In year 1970	Result of 3-Year Plan 73-75	Result of Change Plan 76-80	Goals of 81-85 Plan
	Megawatts Percentage of Mix	Megawatts percentage of Mix	Megawatt Percentage of Mix	Megawatts Percentage of Mix
Steam Generator	2460	29.256	561.083	783.105
Gas Generator	40.100	56.496	29.568	14.535
Diesel Generator	36.90	15.127	15.299	8.330
	100.250	100.879	100.1950	100.3970

all the Jamahiriyah has been electrified, and high tension networks built from Tripoli, Benghazi and Subha, preparatory to connecting all the Jamahiriyah into a unified network.

* Desalination of seawater, to overcome the lack of adequate amounts of water in some places. That was done by constructing independent desalination plants and then building steam generators, for the twin purposes of generating electricity and desalinating seawater.

It is worth pointing out that the 1976-80 5-year plan for the electricity sector was previous drawn up with built-in flexibility, since it permits the introduction of unexpected modifications into projects currently under way. Therefore, the plan's program was not stopped because of changes which unexpectedly occurred during the years. On the contrary, they were accommodated, and the work continued, out of a feeling of responsibility toward making great progress in the field of electricity, within the planning for the country's energy needs up to the year 2000.

7005
CSO: 4504/478

NEW 56 METER PATROL BOAT DELIVERED

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 9 Sep 82 p 5

[Photo and caption]

[Text] Designed and built by a British shipyard in a record 27 months, the SNV Dhofar is pictured during sea trials before delivery to Oman. The first of three 56-metre fast patrol boats, she is the largest vessel of the type to be built by the company.

CSO: 4400/36

OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 2 Sep 82 p 3

[Text]

Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE have offered 73 scholarships to Omani students for higher studies this year. They are included in the list of 455 students given scholarships by the Ministry of Education to study abroad. Among them 75 are girls.

Another group of about 20 students after second term secondary examinations is also likely to get scholarships raising the total number of such students to 475.

The acting Director General of Sholarships and Foreign Relations Mr, Moosa Jaffer told the Times on Monday that the Ministry of Education was spending more than RO 4 million on scholarships every year.

He said that Omani students were being sent this year to universities in USA (72), Britain (75), Egypt (107), Qatar (29), UAE (10), Bahrain (36), France (10), Italy (6), Australia (10), Morocco (32), Saudi Arabia (43), Jordan (23), and Pakistan (4).

Australia joined the overseas destinations of Omani students this year while India had been dropped from the list due because no places are available.

The monthly living and book allowance for Omani students overseas were raised in April this year following a ministerial decree.

The allowances were raised by 20 percent on average but in some cases the rise is double depending on the merits of cases considered.

With the despatch of 465 students abroad for study, the total number of Omani students overseas will reach to 1700.

Meanwhile, 160 students who have completed their studies abroad are expected to return to the country this year.

CSO: 4400/36

NEW LAW ON COMMERCE

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 23 Sep 82 p 1

[Article by Muzzafar Mohammad]

[Text]

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has prepared a draft of a new commercial law which will cover in detail every sphere of business activity in the Sultanate.

The law, which will be issued through a Royal Decree, is being considered by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs.

A spokesman of the Ministry told the Times of Oman on Tuesday that the new law will cover general aspects of business activity which have not been defined by existing laws such as the Commercial Registration Law, Companies Law, Agencies Law and the Foreign Investment Law.

Sponsorships

The law has more than 600 clauses governing business transactions such as selling and buying, renting, mortgaging, mediation, commercial documents and accounts books, shops business, commercial contracts, banking, and agency business.

The new law has special sections on bankruptcy, stock business, transport business, maritime sales, trademarks and sponsorships.

The commercial statute contains a section on merchants, giving the definition of a businessman. It proposes to fix a minimum of age 18 for a person to start business.

Special stress will be given in the law for the keeping of clean and up to date account books by merchants and companies. These books can be used as evidence in commercial disputes.

One section on shops contains provisions governing selling, renting and mortaging shops.

The law will provide sanctions against businessmen involved in exaggerated publicity of their goods in a bid to harm competitors. It provides safeguards against unhealthy competition.

A section on contracts explains conditions for transactions and stipulates responsibilities of the seller and buyer.

The new law will stipulate general provisions governing future stock business in the Sultanate. But a detailed law on this subject will be issued later.

The law has a number of provisions to define bankruptcy in terms of business and lays down procedure to be adopted in such cases.

The law has been prepared by Head of Legal Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and has been sent to the office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs for study and any amendments.

CSO: 4400/36

SMALL FARMERS GET LOANS

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 21 Sep 82 p 7

[Text]

THE Oman Bank for Agriculture and Fisheries has granted over 50 loans for a total amount of approximately OR 500,000 since April.

The loans, averaging OR 10,000, were mostly given to small farmers for farm development, in particular vegetable growing and sheep and goat rearing. A portion of the loans went to fishermen.

Until now the Batinah and Sharqiya areas have received the largest percentage of the financial assistance, according to an article published in "Al Markazi", the monthly publication of the Central Bank of Oman.

A large number of applications are pending for the Southern region since the Salalah branch opened in June. The first loans should be granted there this month, a large share of them for fisheries development, the article says.

Initially, the bank plans to grant loans for the development of existing farms. However, loans will also be allocated to newly cultivated areas and for large agro-industrial projects. The bank is currently financing the processing of domestic waste into organic fertiliser.

Working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the bank has started programmes which are intended to help farmers progressively evolve from traditional farming, primarily dates and limes into new agricultural activities. Studies are also conducted on traditional farming in order to give them better economic prospects.

Several programmes designed to expand or introduce other kinds of farming are currently being offered to farmers and fishermen. Improved techniques for rearing sheep and goats is one of them.

Improving storage and transportation facilities for fisheries in the Southern province is another of the bank's programmes.

Fisheries and agriculture-related industries and businesses will also benefit from the help of the bank, as it is prepared to assist food processing and exporting ventures. If requested it will financially support the reorganisation of the Nizwa and Rustaq date processing plants.

The bank is also working closely with the Public Authority for Marketing of Agricultural Produce. The bank will financially assist schemes proposed by the Authority.

The bank has been officially approached by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to take over the management of the Ministry's subsidy programmes.

The bank plans to open a total of 20 branches during the current Five Year Plan.

CSO: 4400/36

INABILITY OF LOCAL UNIVERSITIES TO ABSORB HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Jiddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 30 Jul 82 pp 10-11

[Article by 'Abdallah Idris: "A Question Which Is Awaiting a Reply: Where Will the Public Secondary School Graduates Go?"]

> [Text] Here is what responsible officials are saying about the matter: "Opportunities are available to students who are qualified for university study." The educational system is in need of radical change." The Junior College for Girls will lessen the demand [for girls] to attend universities." "Our universities are not absorbing all the graduates of secondary schools." An appeal is being made for people to enroll in military academies."
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> Here is what students, both male and female, are saying about the matter: "In accordance with the wishes of my family, I changed my field of specialization three times." "I did not like the sciences, so I chose a humanities program." "My university experience was a failure because I made a wrong choice." "I prefer to see all of our female students enroll only in teachers colleges."
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> The following are factors which contribute toward aggravation of the problem: 1) the grades [achieved by secondary school applicants to universities]; 2) interference by the families [of the applicants]; 3) [the desire to] merely obtain a university diploma; 4) materialistic goals [had in mind by the university students]; 5) lack of ability of the universities to accept [all the applicants]; 6) the [university] curricula: 7) lack of a sense of national duty [on the part of the students].

The Study Mission Preparatory School, which was established in 1355 A.H., is considered to have been the first secondary school of its type in Saudi Arabia which prepares its graduates to attend universities--of which there were

none [in Saudi Arabia] at that time. It was necessary to send the graduates of this school abroad in order for them to pursue higher education, and most of these study opportunities were in Egypt.

Before this school was set up, the Department of Education had inaugurated the Scientific Institute in 1345 A.H. This was also the first [school] above the elementary level, and it graduated a number of young Saudis who later on occupied leading positions in the government.

When, in Saudi Arabia, there were only about 65 [elementary] schools, 1 secondary school, and 10,000 students--before the existence of six universities, special colleges and academies, and hundreds of elementary and secondary schools--the graduates of the secondary school were not confronted with any problem as far as choosing [where to pursue higher education]. It was necessary for these students to be sent abroad on a study mission. In order to gain perspective, we should compare how our education used to be, when Saudi Arabia had its first educational system which was run by the First Council of Education formed in 1347 A.H., with the level of today's educational system with its seven universities--King Sa'ud University in Riyadh, King 'Abd al-'Aziz University and King Faysal University in al-Dammam, Umm al-Qura University in Mecca, Imam Muhammad ibn Sa'ud University and the Islamic University in Medina, and the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran. Also, Saudi Arabia has a large number of military academies such as the King Faysal Air Force Academy, the King 'Abd al-'Aziz War Academy, the King Khalid National Guard Academy, and the Internal Security Forces Academy. There is also the Center of Sciences and Mathematics, in addition to [other] special institutes. This gives a very good idea of what the situation is. In other words, we can positively state that the opportunity for a Saudi student to continue his education today is something which is guaranteed to him. This being true, we must also bring up this issue [concerning] where a secondary school graduate should go to receive higher education] along with all the questions circulating in the minds of the students who are graduating from secondary schools. This should be done on the basis of the concept of education in a manner which involves objective discussion in an attempt to be thorough and draw the desired conclusions, overcome difficulties, and bring out into the open this issue which has come to preoccupy our young people and which, as evidence indicates, constitutes a barrier for a student who is trying to achieve the goal he is dreaming of attaining.

Causes of the Problem

So the problem which we are faced with is: Where will the public secondary school graduates go after graduation? Although the problem previously did not exist when the educational system was just getting started and there were few fields of specialization, how should we approach dealing with the issue [today]? What is the point of view of responsible officials concerning this matter? How do the students visualize solving the problem? What are the dimensions of the issue for them? What are the principal obstacles which cause them to live in a state of anxiety and bewilderment when making their

choice? What are the shortcomings which cause this problem to be an important one? Is this a result of a failure on the part of the universities and colleges to let students know about the fields of specialization which they have and can offer to the students, or is it a shortcoming on the part of the secondary schools which limit themselves to preparing students to enter fields of specialization which suit their capabilities and talents? Or does the whole problem lie with the students themselves, and are they the ones principally responsible for the problem?

First of all, we should say that the conditions for admission to all of Saudi Arabia's universities and colleges are well-known, as are the benefits obtained by those who are admitted to them. [Students] generally know about the departments and fields of specialization in them, and they know the rules and system concerning exams, study requirements, the academic levels at which one has the opportunity to study, and the conditions to be met for studying at those levels. This information in itself might perhaps constitute the answer [to these questions] for those who say that the students who are graduating from public secondary schools have no idea what university study is all about before entering a university. But it is true that many students do not know these facts, even though they are not secret and can be requested from any university or college.

These Are the Students Who Study Abroad

The range of the issue does not merely focus on this aspect. There are also numerous [other] aspects for us to deal with.

Who are the students that can be sent abroad to study, and why? One answer to this question could be that those students who are sent abroad to study are being sent in the interests [of the nation]. The universities of Saudi Arabia have most fields of specialization. There is another answer to this question, and it is provided by a high official: "If there are five persons studying a field of specialization [which Saudi universities do not have], a department cannot be created especially for them. It is such people that are sent abroad to study."

What the Secondary School Graduates Run Up Against

When we review some of the points mentioned within the framework of the problem--and which perhaps preoccupy a secondary school graduate when he is searching for a field of specialization which suits him--other matters clearly emerge, including the following:

1. The grades which a student achieves and which are usually an obstacle to his being accepted in a given college within a university. This is the conclusion we have come to by means of interviewing a number of students graduating from public secondary schools and university students who have experienced this fact.

2. Interference by family members when it comes to their son's choice of specialization and the determination of his future. We have, for example,

a father who wants his son to become a doctor or engineer. Such a father has an idea about his son's level or usually even is well aware of his son's aversion to scientific subjects and his lack of preparation in mathematics. But his father's desire for this is attributable to social and psychological motives which induce him to determine that his son receive a scientific education. This is what causes a great number of students to either fail in their studies or else to continue their studies only under compulsion. And we know what the result of this is!

3. [The desire to] merely obtain a university diploma. There are students who choose their field of specialization merely on the basis of the fact that they aspire to obtain a university diploma, and do not care anything about the education itself.

4. Materialistic goals [pursued by the university students]. According to one student, most of the secondary school graduates are motivated by materialistic goals. It is also his opinion that this is one of the general problems which exists in our society.

5. Lack of ability on the part of the universities or on the part of given colleges [in the universities] to accept all of those who apply for admission. Is this true? The registrar at King 'Abd al-'Aziz University in Jiddah has said that he doubts that all of the secondary school graduates in Jiddah this year will be accepted [in universities].

6. The [university] curricula, which some students as well as some responsible officials at universities say must be radically changed.

7. Lack of a sense of national duty on the part of the students and a lack of interest in serving their society when they enter college after graduating from secondary school. For the most part, this is not a widespread problem.

But can this general view of the matter be changed, and if so, how? What means can be employed to accomplish this? Can this be done by means of an awareness campaign and by means of using the informational media? Or should this be done by the universities themselves which would have the duty of enlightening young people concerning a given university's objectives and its potential for, and role in, creating fields of specialization which serve society? The view held by secondary students when they graduate from their last year of secondary school is that they will go to universities and, for example, ignore vocational fields of specialization--and vocational skills are akills which our country is desperately in need of. The importance of this problem clearly emerges when we consider these points and possible solutions which could be carried out.

Where are the public secondary school graduates going to go? Let us listen to the official point of view concerning these matters.

It Is the Fault of the Students, Not the Universities His Excellency Shaykh Hasan ibn 'Abdallah Al al-Shaykh, the minister of higher education, has the following to say:

"I believe that a student who is qualified for university study should be given the opportunity to do this, and a student who is unable [to pursue university studies] should give up his place in a university and allow it to be occupied by another student [who is able]."

"Some students are able to continue with their university studies, and others are not. This is something which is well-known and accepted in every country of the world. Some students are not qualified to continue with their university studies. Thus the fault lies not with the universities, but rather with the students themselves! So what they should do is find another path to follow in order to serve their nation."

He then went on to say: "My view is that responsible officials in the Ministry of Education are anxious to further consolidate ties between the two ministries which provide graduates with the opportunity of pursuing their university education. They are also anxious to bring the students up to a level which prepares them for university study."

"But we must not forget that people have particular aptitudes and inclinations, and that many students perhaps do not have the necessary aptitude and inclination to pursue university study. Thus the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Education, and the employees working there, shall not delay dealing with these problems."

Strategy for Improving the Quality of Education

This matter was commented upon as follows by Dr Bakr 'Abdallah ibn Bakr, the rector of the University of Petroleum and Minerals:

"I have an opinion concerning the existing educational system, and it is that this system needs to be radically changed. At the present time we need to take a good hard look at all of these matters. Now that education is available in our country, we need to adopt a type of strategy which will improve the quality of our education and not merely expand our education as to quantity of education provided."

He continued, explaining the manner in which his university accepts students:

"The University of Petroleum and Minerals accepts public secondary school students who have followed a humanities program in secondary school as long as they have the desire to pursue university education in the field of specialization which the University of Petroleum and Minerals has."

As evidence of this, he said: "In fact, this year we had graduates from the College of Engineering who had gone through the humanities program in secondary school."

Dr Bakr was also of the following opinion: "We in Saudi Arabia now need to be more oriented toward production than toward services. Production means gaining a knowledge of modern means, including modern machinery and equipment, and learning to operate it, maintain it, and learning the various uses

of this machinery and equipment which lead to production, whether at a factory, on a farm, or in a small workshop. This is the orientation which we need to have."

Dr Bakr then added: "In this regard I would like to point out the Technical Training Institute in Dhahran which prepares technicians in the field of electronics and mechanics."

I asked him: "Can we eliminate the humanities specializations and compel students to study fields of specialization which are required by our development plan?"

He answered: "The government cannot compel society to have a given orientation if there is no willingness [on the part of people to accept this] or possibility [that people will] accept this. We in Saudi Arabia have some problems with the more humble vocations. In short, I am in favor of having us take a good look at our public education in Saudi Arabia from all angles. Evidence of the necessity of doing this is indicated by the poor level achieved by the secondary school students and their inability to determine their fields of specialization at the university educational level!!"

The Junior College for Girls Is the Alternative

Prof 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Uthman, the director general of [the Department of] Education for Girls in the District of Jiddah, was of the following opinion: "The Junior College for Girls is the alternative to the Teachers Institute, and will lessen the increasing demand to be admitted to universities."

Concerning this junior college, he said: "The college has four fields of specialization, which are: regligious sciences, the Arabic language, modern mathematics, home economics, and technical education." As for admission requirements, he said: "All applicants must be Saudis and they must have obtained diplomas showing that they have completed their secondary school education either in the humanities or the scientific program. Graduates of the Secondary Teachers Training Institute may also enter this junior college. The period of study at the junior college is 2 years, and students graduate as teachers [prepared to teach] at the elementary level."

Concerning the objective of establishing this junior college, he said: "The objective is to raise the level of Saudi elementary school teachers both in terms of their academic knowledge and their general education."

Prof al-'Uthman was of the opinion that this would lessen the demand for admission to universities on the part of female students who might study certain fields of specialization and, upon graduation, would not find work in their fields. He said that, in addition to this, some female university graduates are teaching school in spite of the fact that they are not prepared to do so!

The Universities Will Not Accept All Secondary School Graduates

Mr Sami Barri, registrar at King 'Abd al-'Aziz University in Jiddah, said: "It is unlikely that all graduating secondary school students in Jiddah this year will be accepted [by universities]."

When asked where the secondary school graduates would then go, he said: "Most of the students generally believe that a graduating student should go to a university. We, as a developing nation, need to have all such secondary students go to universities. However, if this happens, we will not be able to sufficiently meet the needs of our development plans. What we need to do is to follow two balanced approaches so that not everyone is oriented toward a university education and so that we do not ignore the other fields which supplement those of the university educational level. We need to have junior colleges or colleges whose level is between that of the secondary school and the university level. The period of study at such junior colleges would be 2 years, and graduates of these junior colleges would then fill jobs which are on an intermediate level between the jobs for university graduates and those for secondary school graduates."

The university registrar was of the opinion that if the creation of these colleges took place, this would be an important step forward in the area of education. He said that the Ministry of Higher Education is very interested in this possibility, and that it is being studied.

The Process of Selecting Students

I asked: "How are students admitted to a particular college [within your university]?"

The answer was: "Each college determines its lowest acceptable percentile rank, and this, of course, depends on the field of specialization involved. For example, the College of Business and Management requires a percentile rank of 80 percent of students from the scientific program and 85 percent of students from the humanities program. This limits the number of those accepted, and creates a process of selecting students with aptitude and capability who can pursue university education. In some colleges the lowest acceptable percentile rank is lower. This is true, for example, of the College of Meteorology and Environmental Studies. This college is a new one, and when it opened up most students did not know anything about it, and they did not know anything about the specializations offered in it. There is limited demand to be admitted into this college, and therefore the lowest percentile rank required for acceptance into it has been set at 70 percent in order to attract students into it." "The lowest acceptable percentile rank for admission into the College of the Arts is 80 percent, and the purpose of this is to cut down on the number of students in it. This also amounts to a process of selecting the best-qualified students. Their level would be low if we were forced to lower this minimum acceptable percentile rank. There is no doubt about the fact that King 'Abd al-'Aziz University cannot absorb all of this year's graduates [from secondary schools in Jiddah]. The university can only accept a certain number, and presumably the university will limit itself to this number."

He went on to say: "The number of students accepted by the university is supposed to be equal to the number of graduating students plus 10 percent. This year about 1,000 students graduated from the university, and consequently the university is supposed to be able to accept 1,100 new students. So the number needed is the number of graduating students plus 10 percent. If the Admissions and Registrar's Office finds that not enough students are being admitted to a given college in the university in order to reach that college's required number, the office informs the college so that it can then attempt to lower the minimum percentile rank [acceptable for students entering that college]."

"We undertake the role of communicator [of information to the parties concerned] concerning the situation of the students [seeking acceptance to the college] and the college's student situation."

An Awareness Campaign for the Students

I said: "But most of the students are complaining about the fact that they do not know what is going on. Or let us say that they are unfamiliar with the systems followed in the colleges and the universities."

He answered: "The Admissions and Registrar's Office this year has attempted to undertake an awareness campaign with the students. We held several meetings at a number of Jiddah's secondary schools. We also held many meetings in al-Ta'if and Mecca in order to inform students of the system of credit hours that we follow. I do not believe that it is good when students are in a hurry to leave academic institutions and to go to work or look for a job after graduation. Unfortunately most students have this frame of mind. They are mainly interested in where they will be working after graduation. Sometimes they might even work while they study, and by doing this they will damage their future themselves because they will neither benefit from their studies nor from their jobs [which they are working at while studying]."

He had a proposal, which was: "The organization which is going to be employing a student [after graduation] should give him a scholarship to study inside the country. During vacation periods this establishment which is giving him the scholarship could utilize him by having him work for the establishment, and it could also give him an incentive by rewarding him financially if he has gotten good grades. When he graduates from the university, he will then be both academically qualified and qualified in practice [to do his job]. The consequence of this will be that the student will profit from his studies and, at the same time, the office or establishment which has given him his scholarship will be profiting from his services. Also, the graduating student will have acquired experience both from the theoretical and practical points of view. Our country should strike a balance and have both people specializing in the humanities and theoretical fields as well as people specializing in scientific fields."

200 Students in the King Khalid Academy

Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-(Sabit), the National Guard's commissioner for cultural and educational affairs, expects that about 200 students will be admitted to the King Khalid Military Academy. The academy will be accepting graduating public secondary school students from both the scientific and humanities programs, or the equivalent thereof (such as the secondary school Dar al-Tawhid or scientific institutes). The academy curriculum will bear in mind these differences among students as far as what they have studied and what information they have learned."

Concerning the King Khalid Academy, Dr al-(Sabit) said: "There is no difference between it and any other military academy in Saudi Arabia, such as the King Faysal Air Force Academy, the King 'Abd al-'Aziz War Academy, or the Internal Security Services Academy. In fact, all of these academies have the same system and follow the same approach. The goal of this academy is to graduate competent officers who are of a level high enough to be suitable for service in the National Guard and high enough to meet the expectations of the leaders of the National Guard. One of the merits of our students is that students graduating [from our academy] will be students not only versed in military sciences, but in other sciences as well. The academy will be accepting young Saudi applicants after the academy has completed all of its technical and administrative preparations. When this is done, it will be considered one of the most modern military academies in the world. A committee composed of a number of officials, university professors, and intellectuals was formed and entrusted with the job of setting and preparing the academy's courses of study which the students will be taking while they are enrolled in the academy. The academic programs have been established within the complete network of facilities provided by the National Guard."

The Important Thing Is the Capabilities of the Students

Where will secondary school students be going after graduation? In answer to this question, Dr 'Abdallah al-(Thunayn), vice-rector of King 'Abd al-'Aziz University in Jiddah, said: "They will go to the universities, of course!"

"But when a secondary school graduate wants to enroll in a university, he should review what his own potential is. Then he should choose to go to either a university, a technical college, a technical or industrial institute, or to some other type of institution. This choice should be based on what aptitudes he has, and then he should be appropriately oriented toward his field of specialization. No doubt his aptitudes and inclinations will be reflecting his orientation. The grades which he earned in his public secondary school are what demonstrates his level, inclinations, and direction. He should be able to know which subjects are his better subjects. Let us suppose that he does very well in humanities subjects. This means that he is inclined toward the humanities and that he should then enter the College of Arts and Humanities or some other college [in the university] which is similar to it. If his grades in the public secondary school reflect the fact that he is a student who likes practical application and fields, then he should not go to

the university. He should be enrolling in a technical institute or a junior college level vocational school. Not every student who graduates from a secondary school is supposed to go to a university."

Dr al-(Thunayn),was also of the following opinion: "We should rid our mind of the idea that a person does not arrive at a certain level unless he graduates from a university! On the contrary, right now Saudi Arabia is in need of people who have specialized in applied fields. Right now we have a large number of university graduates, most of whom have graduated from departments which have furnished them with a theoretical type education. What we need is graduates from colleges in the universities which specialize in practical fields, such as colleges of engineering and other such scientific colleges. In my view, Saudi Arabia right now is much more in need of the practical fields. The country needs these students whose aptitudes and inclinations [normally] lead them to enroll in technical institutes, and these technical institutes concentrate on particular fields which suit the inclinations of their students."

Why Go to the Universities?

Dr al-(Thunayn) said: "Universities are the educational institutions which most students go to by virtue of the fact that they have numerous fields of specialization. So any student who goes to a university should have found some field which fits his desires and inclinations. This should be especially true if he is inclined toward a field which is vital to the needs of our country's development plans, such as fields of engineering and other applied specializations. We do not have enough people in these fields. Furthermore, if a student has high enough grades, he will say to himself that he should enroll in a college of medicine, engineering, or business and management. But he should choose a field of specialization which suits his inclinations, because if he applies to go to a college of medicine and is accepted there, on the basis of his high grades, he still might find that he would have done better in some other field. So students should not be deceived by glittering words such as 'medicine,' 'engineering,' and 'business.' We should be as realistic as possible. No doubt these are trite words, but they do spring from my own experience because I too was once a student. This is a fact which we must believe. If a student does well in English literature or English language, he should not ignore his inclinations and desires. Such a student might perhaps say: 'I am good in English, but I will go to the College of Engineering in order that people then address me as Engineer So-And-So.' Such a student will not do nearly as well [in the College of Engineering] as he would in the field of literature or English language."

Sometimes Universities Are Different in Terms of Their Specializations I asked: "Saudi Arabia's universities all have the same fields of specialization. Would it not be better if each of our universities had its own particular field of specialization?"

Dr al-(Thunayn) answered: "They are not 100 percent the same in all universities. Since our universities are in different areas of the country, they all have to have some [of the same] basic fields of specialization. But the College of Engineering at King 'Abd al-'Aziz University differs from the College of Engineering at King Sa'ud University. Also, there are some fields of specialization at King 'Abd al-'Aziz University which are not found at our other universities. Both King 'Abd al-'Aziz University and King Sa'ud University have departments of journalism and the media. But these two departments are organized differently at the two universities. There are some basic fields of specialization which are found in all of our universities because we have a university in each area of the country. But the universities do not completely duplicate each other. The students have room for choice. Also, there is a difference in the type of specializations. In my view, there is no duplication, and if there is such duplication, it is restricted to only a few colleges of the universities. But within the individual colleges there certainly are differences."

Why Is There More Interest in Going to Some Colleges [Within Universities] Rather Than Others?

I asked: "Why is there increasing interest in going to the College of Business and Management?"

The answer was: "In my opinion, the country is still in great need of graduates of the College of Business and Management because their skills are the skills which are needed in every organization, whether in the government sector or private sector. There is a demand for such large numbers [of students interested in studying business and management]. But naturally we should not plunge headlong into this specialization [and ignore the other ones]. Universities, by virtue of their nature and the nature of their resources, formulate guidelines for limiting the number of students in each of their colleges. But this does not mean that we will have an inflation [in terms of the number of students in the universities] in the future. In the case of some colleges, such as the College of Meteorology and Environmental Sciences, there is a shortage of students. This field of specialization cannot be compared with that of business and management because there is not such a great demand for it. Consequently there is not so much interest in studying this field. The same is true concerning the College of Geology and the College of Oceanography. These are colleges offering narrow specializations in a particular field for particular people. Thus there is not so much interest in going to these colleges as there is in going to other colleges."

Dr al-(Thunayn) went on to say: "There is great demand for a graduating doctor, and he will find a place to work. The same is also true for graduating engineers. In the case of a graduate from the College of Oceanography, his field of specialization is something which is known. Nevertheless, students are not interested in attending this college because they do not want to take a chance on entering a college which is not well-known and when it is not known what a graduate of this college would do. The Colleges of Oceanography, Meteorology, and Geology are considered to be colleges with

fields of specialization which belong to the College of Sciences. But it is important that students realize that these colleges have been established because the nation is in need of them and because the nation wishes to train people in scientific fields and then find for them a place where they can serve our society and help it achieve the goals of its development plan."

I asked: "Do you believe that King 'Abd al-'Aziz University will be able to accept all of the secondary school graduates from Jiddah and environs?"

Dr al-(Thunayn) answered: "I do not believe that it will be able to accept all of the secondary school graduates from Jiddah and environs because of the great demand to enter the university. Many of them will not be going to King 'Abd al-'Aziz University. A student might apply to two universities and choose whichever one accepts him, or else he might go to some other institution such as one of the junior colleges, technical institutes, or vocational industrial institutes. I do not believe that the university has the capability of admitting all of the secondary school graduates from the city of Jiddah."

Criteria in Accordance With Each School's Ability [to Accept Students]

I asked: "Does the university set certain criteria for [admitting] applicants to it?"

Dr al-(Thunayn) answered: "The university, of course, has allotted to each college a given number of places for students on the basis of the capability and resources of each of these colleges. Also, there are other criteria for admission to the university. The university accepts the number of students which it is able to absorb. Also, a student must search around and make some effort in order to be sure that his choice is a correct one. The reason for this is that it is his inclinations which are going to determine the course of his life."

Bad Choices

We then talked to one of the university students who, from the beginning, had made a bad choice.

'Isam 'Abd al-Salam, a student in the College of Engineering, had the following to say: "At first I enrolled in the College of Medicine. But I did poorly in my studies because I was lost when it came to some of the subjects. But in spite of these difficulties and obstacles, I continued studying in the College of Medicine for about 2 years. But then I found that I was unable to continue. Consequently [I concluded that] I might not make a good doctor. I then found it necessary to pursue some other path, such as that of a pharmacist or doctor's assistant. But this idea did not correspond to my aspirations or to the aspirations of my family. After a while I decided to enroll in the College of Engineering and make a fresh start. But unfortunately the same thing happened again, and mathematics proved to be an obstacle in the way of my future aspirations. Perhaps I will not be able to continue

studying in the College of Engineering and I might enroll in the College of Business and Management. If I find out that I am not able to continue in either of these colleges, then I will go to a military academy!"

I Changed Over to Another School Because of the Time Factor

Sa'id Salim 'Abd al-Hadi, a student who graduated from the Shati' Secondary School in Jiddah, said: "I intended to enroll in the College of Engineering. But when I found out that the engineering curriculum goes on for 5 and 1/2 or 6 years, I changed my mind. I then decided right away to enroll in the College of Business and Management because, if I did that, I would probably finish my studies within 3 years instead of 6 years. Thus I would only have to study half as long, and in any case would get the same job [level] upon graduation. The [job] level is the same for both business and engineering graduates. All of them are appointed at the same job level. Furthermore, there are no advantages for me which would encourage me to enroll in the tough summertime courses of study at the College of Engineering."

Students Should Go to Institutions Other Than Universities

Nuwaf Mish'al al'Sibhan, a student who is studying in the U.S., said: "I was confronted with the problem of which field of specialization to choose after finishing secondary school. But this was not so difficult for me as it was for other students. I had no interest in science subjects. Therefore I never even considered the Colleges of Science, and knew that I was interested in the humanities. After going through some brief testing, I found that the Department of Social Studies (that is, sociology) was the department closest in line with my interests. I chose this department after getting a good overall idea of it from some of my friends who knew about these things. That is, I chose my field and, when I discovered that it fulfilled my interests, I pursued this field and was later on successful in obtaining a university diploma in this field of specialization."

He went on to say: "Naturally public secondary school graduates, right after graduation, immediately think about a university. As far as they are concerned, university study constitutes the next step for them. But there are two types of secondary school graduates. There are those who have in mind exactly what they want to do in the future. For them there is no problem when it comes to determining their field of specialization. For such students, if they want to become engineers, then they have to go to a college of engineering." "But there are others who are only interested in obtaining a diploma from an institution of higher education. These are the ones who end up in a 'whirlpool,' as they say, because they are only searching for the easiest and quickest means of obtaining their diploma and are only interested in who will guarantee them a job. So universities are the only area of opportunity for graduates of secondary schools, whereas our country needs various personnel with diverse fields of specialization who can help our country achieve its aspirations in terms of development."

"In my opinion, what we need is that the next generation not be merely a university-educated generation of people who work in offices. Some of them will have to enter other fields such as vocational fields. The question here is, why do so few people want to go into the vocational fields? I believe that this is attributable to both a social and an administrative reason. I say 'social,' because people still want to make a name for themselves, even though such a name may not [necessarily] serve them well. Furthermore, people are still under the impression that a comfortable life is to be had only in an air-conditioned office. From the administrative point of view, the number of those accepted into universities has not been limited in such a way as to force others to go into vocational fields, provided that there are vocational institutes or colleges which are available for individuals who are not going to be entering universities. Furthermore, we ought to prepare a media and informational campaign which would create a situation in which a person who is qualified in a vocational field would be considered equal to a university graduate. We should not forget the well-known saying: 'There can be no prosperity in a nation which eats food that it does not grow and wears clothes which it does not make.'"

More and More Materialism!!

Ahmad Hulwani, another student, also discussed this subject and said: "When choosing [a field of specialization], most of the secondary school graduates mainly have material goals in mind. It is unreasonable for us to neglect this important aspect of life in the twentieth century, which is an age in which--unfortunately--materialism is dominant in our societies."

He went on to say: "The other considerations, which we call spiritual considerations, have no place in a commercial society such as the society of an industrial city like Jiddah. A secondary school student finds himself confronted with a number of choices, which he [usually] lists as follows in terms of desired priorities: 1) going to the university in the city where he lives; 2) working for Petromin; 3) working for Aramco; 4) working for Saudia Air Lines; 5) going to a military academy; 6) going to a junior college; 7) working at a job at the Grade 4 level; 8) studying abroad at his own expense. We notice among this list of priorities that students do not consider the possibility of going to technical institutes. The reason for this is that our society still has an unfavorable opinion of the 'vocations' even though I realize the importance of vocational and technical education and its meaning for the future of our country because our country's development plan is oriented toward industry and industrialization. Thus we find our young people confronted with many incentives which induce them to ignore a field (such as vocational and technical education) which our country is in need of due to its continuous growth, and the young people instead search out fields of study which will provide them with a status which is recognized by the members of our society."

[Good] Grades Open Up More Opportunities

Tariq 'Ajib, a student who graduated this year from the [secondary school] scientific program, said: "I wanted to go to the College of Medicine, but my grades were not good enough for this. I am now faced with two choices. I can go either to the College of Sciences or the College of Business and Management. All during the time I was in secondary school, I dreamed of entering the College of Medicine in order to be able to treat my mother whom I hope will recover from her illness."

I Am Choosing My Field of Specialization

Anwar 'Abd al-Jawad, a graduate of the secondary school humanities program, said: "I myself will decide what my field of specialization will be and I will not allow the opinions of others to influence me. I intend to choose the field which will be suitable for my inclinations and abilities, and when making this choice I will not worry about what job I will be having after graduation. The important thing is that my studies suit my own inclinations and abilities."

Difference in Viewpoints

Sultan 'Abdallah, another student, had a difference of opinion with his colleagues: "I feel that the university is only a means to receive a diploma which will bring me a solid future. When filling out my forms, I listed three choices. Medicine was my first choice, engineering was my second choice, and my third choice was business and management. This third choice is the only one I will accept if I am not accepted by the College of Medicine or the College of Engineering."

His Grades Are Not Good Enough, But [His Father] Wants Him to Study a Particular Field

Then Muhammad Hasanayn Salah, another student, said: "My grades are not good enough for me to get into the College of Medicine, which is what both my father and my mother have been hoping that I would be able to do. But in spite of this fact, when it came to listing my choices I put the College of Medicine in first place. My own personal choice was the College of Geology, but I listed this as my third choice in order not to anger my parents!"

This problem and its many variations is not something which is restricted only to boys and does not include girls. Many girls are also at a loss and hesitant when they are graduating from their last year of secondary school. They are wondering where they will go after graduation. Their options are few when compared to those available to the male students. This may be attributable to social considerations.

They Are Mothers Above All

Fatimah 'Umar Nasif, dean of female students at King 'Abd al-'Aziz University in Jiddah, said: "In professional life there are fields which are open to

female secondary school graduates, whether they find employment in the labor force as teachers and administrators at the various educational levels or as doctors. There is also another category of women who do not work outside the home, but rather confine themselves to their role as mothers. In these fields women contribute toward promoting the professional life [of our country] in a way which benefits our society."

She went on to say: "In spite of the fact that talent and brains are one of the most important elements of achieving excellence--and this is a condition for having a female student pursue her university education--it is also true that persistence and motivation are important when it comes to whether or not a female student is able to pursue her university education. We have great hopes [for our female students] since progress makes it necessary that our female students enroll in universities. We in the Female Students Division [of King 'Abd al-'Aziz University] want to create young women who have awareness and want to have them prove themselves by means of gaining knowledge which is both beneficial and correct. Then they will contribute toward the building of their society by means of their study of the sciences and their knowledge of the facts learned from studying these subjects and their various fields. But in the case of girls who want to get married and who do not have the inclination to pursue university study, it is not logical to tell them to first complete their studies and then get married."

Mrs Nasif went on to say: "Universities are places for receiving an all-around education rather than just places to acquire an academic education. Female students in universities acquire expertise from their teachers and they establish human relationships with those who surround them. All of this develops and refines their personalities. It is not necessary that they become teachers or work in some other job. We are content if we can qualify them to be good mothers when raising their children!!"

She Continued Her Studies In Spite of Her Failure

Another student, Salma al-Salih, had the following comment: "My university experience was a failure because I made several bad choices." She continued, in a bitter tone: "At first my father and mother insisted that I enroll in the College of Medicine in spite of the fact that I am scared of the sight of blood and cannot stand anatomy. I did enroll in the College of Medicine, but I was not able to continue my studies there. Then my family convinced me to transfer to King Sa'ud University in order to enroll there in the College of Pharmacy. This meant that I had no chance of realizing my aspirations." She completed the story of her failure, saying: "After spending 2 years at the College of Medicine in Jiddah and 1 year in the College of Pharmacy in Riyadh, I made the decision--alone--to specialize in business administration in the College of Business and Management at King 'Abd al-'Aziz University. I am now about to reach a level which satisfies me from the professional standpoint, and I will finish my studies in 3 years in an attempt to make up for the years of my life which have been wasted because of the bad choices which I made!" (We should note here that she did not say that the bad choices were due to yielding to her parents' wishes.)

A Field of Specialization Which Few Women Go Into

Then Layla 'Abd al-Hamid Khujah, a student who graduated from a public secondary school this year, said: "I am going to enroll in the College of Business and Management at King 'Abd al-'Aziz University even though this is a field of specialization which few women go into. There is only a 'limited' number of fields that women can work in. If they do not teach in elementary or intermediate-level schools, then they must become teaching assistants at universities. If they continue their education, then they also study in universities. In my opinion, there is no use in women continuing their education because, sooner or later, they will be teaching school. I suggest that the other fields of specialization in universities be eliminated for women, and that we content ourselves with opening up teachers colleges for women because it is not reasonable to have women graduate with a certain field of specialization and then end up teaching school, in spite of the fact that they are not qualified for the teaching profession. It would be better if all female students, from the beginning, enrolled only in colleges of education!"

Changing the Students' Way of Thinking

Dr Rida (Kabli), dean of the Admissions and Registrar's Office at King 'Abd al-'Aziz University, talked about the necessity of changing the public secondary school students' general way of thinking and getting them interested in going to vocational, industrial, and technical institutes since these are fields of specialization needed by our development plans at this important stage of growth which our country is going through. He felt that this was particularly true as far as the field of education was concerned.

As for consideration being given to duty to the nation when choosing a field of specialization, he said: "Our young people are supposed to meet the requirements of our nation. For this reason, it is necessary that they go to technical and vocational institutes. But in order to have this happen, we need to do several things, including the following:"

"Our society itself must come to accept these vocations and not view them as work which is to be despised. In fact, working at these vocations should be viewed as a national duty."

"Young people themselves must become convinced that these vocations involve a good future from the material point of view. There is no doubt that whoever graduates from a vocational or technical institute will be helping to fill a gap in the country's needs, and consequently such a person will earn a good living."

"People with vocational and technical skills are needed in all fields. This is something which we are currently noticing in the sector of industry, the government sector, and the private sector. A person who can work at such a vocation will not only be earning a good living for himself personally. At the same time he will be doing his duty to his nation. He will be filling the gap in our nation's requirements for Saudi technical personnel who are professionally and academically qualified."

"As far as the universities are concerned, they should be concerned about applied learning rather than pure academic learning."

"We have, for example, the College of Engineering which offers opportunities to gain applied knowledge, and we also have the University of Petroleum and Minerals which concentrates on applied learning."

"But not all universities can be oriented toward applied learning. For this reason, the general concept and view of fields of applied learning at the educational level above that of the secondary schools must change. A student's primary objective should be one of national duty and service to his country. The general view of matters must change. The only way this can be done is to use various informational media to bring this awareness [to secondary school students]."

Dr (Kabli) went on, saying: "However, it is difficult for us to rapidly achieve total self-sufficiency in the field of technology. Since our young people do not have sufficient awareness [concerning technical fields], we can expect some aversion [to these fields] at first."

"But what is the role to be played by the Admissions and Registrar's Office concerning creating this awareness?"

"We have made some visits to secondary schools in Jiddah and environs in order to acquaint students with the credit hour system followed in the university, because this credit hour system, as we know, is something about which new [university] students do not know much."

"At these meetings which we have held in secondary schools, we have explained everything about the university. We talked about the different colleges in the university, the various fields which a student can enter, and we talked about helping him to choose his field. We have also been calling the secondary school students' attention to certain areas of specialization."

The Students and Society

"In secondary schools there are various activities or so-called academic clubs. It is by means of such activities that a student can gain an idea about which field he is interested in."

"At the pre-university stage, what a student must do is to concentrate his efforts on developing his aptitudes and capacities which will be necessary for university study. Some students are perhaps not aware of this, and they do not give it any thought. This is as far as the student is concerned. How about society?"

Dr (Kabli) went on to say: "Society has a role to play in orienting students toward choosing their fields of specialization. A student's family might perhaps push him to enroll in a college [in the university] which is suitable

for his own personal aptitudes and inclinations, whereas he might want to study something else. Naturally society and families have a role in the choice which such students make, and they have their effect on the course of life and future of the students."

I asked him: "Will King 'Abd al-'Aziz University be able to accept all of the secondary school graduates from Jiddah and environs this year?"

The answer was: "I do not believe that this will happen because the university has only certain capacities which cannot be exceeded. The university is oriented toward the development plans, and the university has limited capacities. There is only a certain number of professors, and there is a certain number of classes held. The university cannot simply open its doors and accept any number of students. We are oriented toward having a certain number of students in accordance with the absorption capacity of our development plan. It is necessary that we have a process of selecting and choosing a certain number [of students] and that the educational levels of the applicants allow them to pursue their university studies in accordance with the resources and capacities of the university. It would be difficult for the university to open its doors to all secondary school graduates. If this were done, it would be at the expense of the quality of the university, and the university would then not be able to graduate students of a sufficiently high level to be beneficial to the nation. So we have to set a certain number of students which the university can admit."

Student Counseling

I asked: "Is it possible to resort to student counseling after a university student's performance level has gone down?"

The answer was: "It is difficult to reach a judgment concerning university students without making a study [of their individual cases] and having statistics to support such a judgment. We cannot form a judgment concerning how far a university student's performance has gone down unless we give him a careful examination."

"It is a very normal thing for a certain percentage of the students to do poorly in their studies."

"And a student might perhaps graduate from the university, having studied a field of specialization which he did not choose, and with his level [of performance and accomplishment] having remained on the level of that of a public secondary school student because he has not developed his own abilities and aptitudes."

Conclusion

I wonder, have we succeeded in our presentation of this problem which, as we have said, is one which preoccupies the minds of our young public secondary school graduates at the end of each academic year and at the beginning of each new [academic] year?

Also, could we have elucidated any matters which are more important than those which we have conveyed to you?

The general outlines of the problem might be familiar to many people, especially to officials in charge of all of the levels of education who graduate students and then receive new students. The essence of the problem boils down to that of making a bad choice which is incompatible with a student's abilities and inclinations and includes the fact that he has no prior knowledge of the particular college [in a university] which he will be enrolling in. The only solution to this problem is for a student to understand himself. This certainly would be a factor which would aid him when receiving and pursuing his education.

But could it be, as we have said above, that the problem not only lies with the students, but also with the universities and their various colleges? Certain university colleges have limited capacities, and consequently they are unable to accept all of those who apply to them. This is perhaps not the fault of some colleges, because they are only able to accept students who achieve a certain level of grades in either the humanities or science program in secondary school.

There are also other matters which we have touched upon when dealing with this issue, such as students' expectation that, when they graduate from secondary school, they will be enrolling in universities [rather than going to any other type of school]. This, of course, is a misleading frame of mind.

We should also make it clear at this point that some universities in Saudi Arabia help students to make their choices. As officials at King 'Abd al-'Aziz University have said, a delegation from that university went to visit with secondary school students in Jiddah in order to increase their awareness [concerning their future educational careers] upon graduation and in order to clarify the situation for them.

And finally, can we blame the universities for being concerned with areas of applied learning rather than academic learning, as was stated by an official at one of our universities?!!!

9468
CSO: 4404/613

IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVICES NOTED

Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Aug 82 p 5

[Article: "Noticeable Activity by Local Boards of Directors; Budget of al-Hasakah Province Totals 148 Million"]

[Text] The provincial boards have been involved in noticeable activity in studying various issues involving improvement in the status of services in the provinces. The boards of Damascus, Aleppo and al-Hasakah yesterday finished their meetings in which they discussed issues involving services, supply, etc., with the set of recommendations and decisions for improving operations and performance.

In Damascus, the provincial board for local administration finished its current session after discussing all issues on its agenda and adopting the necessary resolutions on them.

During this session the board approved the 1983 provincial budget amounting to 250,426,000 Syrian pounds. It also approved the investment plan for 1983 for the educational and health projects and projects of the directorates of services of all branches. It also approved the internal financial system for collecting and disbursing inspection fees for tourist automobiles, buses and the preparation and test circuit.

The board also proposed creating subdistricts in Mabin, al-Ghazlaniyah, al-Rah' ah and 'Adra and completing arrangements for creating a subdistrict in Jadidah 'Artuz. It also proposed erecting a commemorative plaque in Jarmana in honor of the martyr, Haytham 'Abd-al-Salam and renaming the Jarmana girls' secondary school after the martyr, Col Zawi al-Samin.

It also approved raising Harsta to a second class municipality and also approved dealing with the provision of water to the heroic people of Harsta.

In Aleppo, the provincial board ended its regular session for the month of August yesterday by discussing reports of the sectors of the municipality of Aleppo and the subject of supply. The municipality report took up the subjects of roads and paving them, particularly in residential quarters and the subject of the study of the project to construct the new sewer system and the water purification plant. The report stated that this project would receive central government financing as long as the necessary appropriations were available.

The report urged the supply sector to monitor bakeries and stressed the necessity of making materiel and commodities available in the Retail Trade Company centers. The executive bureau held a session during which it authorized a contract with the services branch of the city of Aleppo to carry out a project to construct (kahariz) and pave the ring road between Damascus and I'zaz streets in the first stage at a cost of more than 9 million Syrian pounds.

During an extraordinary meeting held yesterday under the chairmanship of Husayn Hasunah, governor of al-Hasakah, the al-Hasakah provincial board finished the draft 1983 regular budget which totals 148 million Syrian pounds.

It also discussed a number of subjects involving supply and agricultural matters and adopted several recommendations aimed at improving operations.

8389
CSO: 4404/667

BRIEFS

TRANSIT TRADE LOSSES CITED--Western financial circles estimate that Syria will suffer a loss of a million dollars a week as a result of the closure of its borders with Iraq. Moreover, the daily Syrian customs losses on truckloads and shipments passing through Syrian territory toward Iraq amount to $100,000. In addition, there is a daily loss of $20,000 from mooring fees paid by freighters to Syrian ports. At the beginning of the Syrian boycott of Iraq, some transport companies tried to bring in goods destined for Iraq through Syria on the pretense that the country of the final destination of these goods was Jordan. However, the Syrian authorities became aware of this and took strong measures that required the showing of documents guaranteeing the Jordanian address for final delivery of the goods. This led to the cessation of this kind of transit. On the other hand, Syrian foreign trade figures for 1981 show an increased deficit in the balance of payments from 7,993 million Syrian liras in 1980 to 11,500 million liras in 1981. Moreover, these figures do not include military purchases. During the last few years the volume of Syrian exports has been greatly exceeding the volume of imports. This has led to a shortage of foreign spare parts and to a slowdown in the implementation of major industrial projects. The Syrian government has taken 10 percent of the credits earmarked for public outlays in 1981 and 1982, and last August it raised the prices of the principal commodities, including fuel, by an average of 10 percent. The Arab Monetary Fund recently loaned Syria $9.7 billion to support its balance of payments. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 290, 11 Sep 82 p 41] 5214

IMPORTANCE OF PHOSPHATES--Dr 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Dahhak, minister of Oil and Mineral Wealth, chaired a big meeting yesterday at the headquarters of the General Company for Phosphates and Mines in Homs. The meeting was attended by the director general of the General Organization for Geology and Mineral Wealth, the directors of the Khanifis and al-Sharqiyah mines and persons responsible for planning in the ministry, the organization and the company. During this meeting there was a study of the overall framework to serve as the basis for the 1983 production plan for Syrian phosphates, taking into account meeting the company's essential needs for maximum production to meet the theoretical capacity of phosphates for the phosphate plants and mines and filling the requirements of the production plan in cooperation with the private sector construction companies to help open new mines and haul away rubble to get at the phosphate-bearing strata. The minister also studied ways to overcome obstacles that have arisen in some programs of the current plan for this year preventing the ministry's production goal from being reached and ways to avoid problems in future plans. During this meeting the minister of oil and mineral wealth stressed the importance of the production of Syrian phosphates and its role in moving the national economy and development forward in our country. He emphasized the maximum efforts will be exerted and our full potential used to improve production in quantity and quality in order to reach the new horizons open to our production. [Text] [Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Aug 82 p 4] 8389

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